Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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LD021403 [Editorial Report]

Jordan, PLO on Peace Initiatives

The latest U.S. proposal "fell short" of Arab demands for a UN-sponsored international conference and does not compare well with the "Arab consensus," Jordanian Occupied Territories Minister Marwan Dudin stated in remarks reported by Amman radio. The U.S. idea, as reported by Israeli media, meets "none" of the Arab demands and does not appear to move closer to the Arab position, he asserted. Nevertheless, Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah stressed that King Husayn met U.S. envoy Philip Habib personally because Jordan welcomes "any real and serious movement" aimed at solving the Palestinian problem. No details of the Husayn-Habib talks on 30 January have emerged, the radio said.

Habib's visit to Jordan was also mentioned in a Baghdad Voice of PLO radio commentary which referred to his arrival in the region "with messages from the U.S. Administration to those who move in accordance with these messages." Criticizing the political moves of "some Arab brothers," the radio said the PLO does not understand why these Arabs are "scared to even mention the Palestinian state" and why they "seek to go backwards" by launching initiatives "with no solid foundations and which our people ignore." The commentary stressed the need to continue adhering to "Palestinian constants" which it defined as termination of the Israeli occupation, establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, and PLO participation in "any peace framework under UN aegis" in an independent manner and on an equal footing.

Egyptian-Jordanian Consultation

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid handed a message from President Husni Mubarak to King Husayn in Rome, MENA reported. The agency noted that the message concerned the advancement of the Middle East peace process.

Meanwhile in Paris, Mubarak met with French President Mitterrand and afterward reiterated his call for an international conference in an interview broadcast by Radio Monte Carlo. The president stated that the United States "understands the soundness" of such a conference.

Israel

The IDF is investigating the circumstances of the incident in which two Arabs were killed east of Tulkarm, IDF radio reported. Fourteen Arabs and five IDF soldiers were injured in various disturbances 1 February, the radio added. Meanwhile, leaders of Jewish Councils in "Judaea and Samaria" warned Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that their ability to maintain quiet among the settlers will be eroded if attacks against settlers continue, according to Jerusalem radio. In a related development, Jerusalem television noted that armed settlers from 'Ofra were prevented by the IDF from entering a nearby Arab village. As for the situation in Gaza, IDF radio announced that security forces have captured several "terrorist squads" responsible for bomb attacks on Israeli vehicles last year.

Commenting on the security situation in an interview with Jerusalem television's Arabic service, Yitzhaq Rabin reaffirmed the authorities' determination to use "power and force, with curfews and detentions" against those who incite, organize, or participate in violent demonstrations, even if this requires "prolonged action."

Responding to Egyptian President Mubarak's assertion that Israel has stopped settlement activity in the territories, Construction and Housing Minister David Levi told Jerusalem radio that this is incorrect as his ministry is intensifying and expanding settlement activity. Stressing his opposition to any declaration abroad "dictating" the pace of settlement, Levi said he is working to implement settlement plans "even earlier" so as to preclude "misunderstanding or questioning." As for Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's position on the U.S. initiative for interim arrangements in the territories, Levi said that Shamir's renewed insistence on the Camp David autonomy plan has corrected "uncertainties" and "very dangerous speculations" resulting from earlier remarks by the prime minister.

In Lebanon, the "Islamic Resistance" warned of its intention to execute an Israeli prisoner if the "oppressive measures" against Muslims in Israel continue, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Lebanon

A French national was assassinated by gunmen in the Al-'Adiliyah area of East Beirut 2 February, Beirut radio reported. According to Paris radio, the victim had just returned to Lebanon to join his father, a secondary school principal.

The Shi'ite "Al-Sadr" group announced that it recently kidnapped a Libyan intelligence agent in Beirut as "a warning to other Libyan agents," according to AFP. The abduction claim, which was made in a telephone call to a Western press agency, comes at a time when arrangements are under way for the reopening of a Libyan "People's Bureau" in Lebanon.

Iran-Iraq War

A communique reported by Tehran radio announced that IRGC troops and Iraqi Kurdish forces inflicted over 1,000 Iraqi casualties in two operations conducted in northern Iraq in recent days. On the Iraqi side, 47

Iranians were killed in I Army Corps northern sector fighting, while an Iranian attack on Al-'Amiq port was repulsed, according to a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

Maghreb Affairs

Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi recently circulated a document in the Maghreb capitals advocating amalgamation into a Maghreb entity, Paris radio reported. The station added that this initiative will be the "major subject" of the discussions under way in Tunis between visiting Moroccan Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki and his Tunisian counterpart Hedi Baccouche. The Tunisian prime minister affirmed that a "Maghreb edifice" could not be built without Moroccan participation, according to Tunis radio. He referred to the Saharan problem as an "obstacle" to Maghreb unity and urged its resolution in order to reinforce trust in the region.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Radio Criticizes Arab Moves on 'Uprising'

JN012102 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1854 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Station commentary: "From the Midst of our Blessed Uprising, We Reaffirm our Palestinian Constants"]

[Text] Brothers, sons of our great Palestinian people and of our glorious Arab nation: The blessed Palestinian uprising has passed through its 8th week and is now entering into the 9th. It is doing so with vigor, force, and a comprehensiveness coupled with ingenious performance, an all-embracing response, and the efficient management of the struggle. While all this is taking place, we see that the Zionists and the Americans in particular, and some Arab brothers in general, are carrying out feverish activities and political moves, are giving many interviews and statements, and are launching initiatives. This makes it our duty to shed some light on all of this so that there will be no confusion with respect to current statements and actions and so that personal interpretations by others will not replace facts. It is also necessary to do this in order to keep the Palestinian constants as the decisive criterion and the beacon that guides our steps, the beacon whose strong light dispels the conspiracies of others.

With respect to the Zionist enemy, Zionist envoys to the U.S. Administration are increasing. Every Zionist faction is sending its own envoy. However, all of them have only one objective: the entrenchment of the U.S. stand as it is in order to prevent the United States from responding to developments and new realities, and to maintain this U.S. stand as it is, completely biased to the Zionists and completely hostile to the Palestinian people, while simultaneously scorning the weight of the Arabs.

With respect to the U.S. Administration, it has sent Michael Armacost to the Zionist entity to closely follow the situation. Henry Kissinger also once again appears in the limelight to counsel the Zionists. Philip Habib arrives in the region with messages from the U.S. Administration to those who move in accordance with such messages.

While all this is taking place, we observe Arab tours of certain world capitals. Those who are making these tours meet with the leaders of this or that country to say what they want and to speak about the uprising in accordance with their interests. They also put forth initiatives with no solid foundations, initiatives which our people ignore.

We understand why the odious Zionist enemy is intransigent and evades facts. We also understand why it fears any Palestinian progress and why it becomes confused when faced with the logic of peace. We understand why the U.S. Administration desperately defends the Zionist entity, its first ally, and why it blindly supports it and boundlessly provides it with all the tools of destruction to kill our heroic people.

What we do not understand or accept is that Arab parties continue to act as they are acting now. Some Arab parties are afraid to even mention the Palestinian state. Through their political initiatives, they seek to go backwards and to make history retrace its steps. They forget that over the 23 years of the establishment of their giant revolution, our Palestinian people have taken the initiative into their hands and have defined their clear course with the blood of their martyrs. They also forget that the blessed uprising, which has entered its 56th day, has opened many breaches through which they can proceed toward victory.

The question that comes to mind in view of all this is the following: Is what frightens the Zionists and the Americans the same thing that frightens some Arabs who are blinded by their illusions, shackled by the chains of their weakness, and linked to the enemies of the Palestinian people? Be that as it may, the decision to pursue the uprising is the strongest and most explicit and accurate decision in the struggle of our Palestinian people. This is the decision adopted by their political leadership, their cadres in the field, and the millions of Palestinians who are carrying out the uprising. The decision to pursue the uprising, which is sweeping away all the illusions of the evil and rancorous enemy and all the wagers of the collaborators, the weak, and the hesitant, is a decision based on the solid ground of Palestinian constants around which our entire Palestinian people have rallied with all their factions, institutions, force, and political denominations. These constants are the termination of the occupation, the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, and the participation of the PLO in any peace framework under UN aegis in an independent manner and on an equal footing, while its right and presence should not be harmed by anyone. We proceed in this from the fact that no matter how many maneuvers take place, the Palestinian solution will be the only solution. The only peace that will take place will be the Palestinian peace.

Those who possess this extraordinary power to succeed on the battlefield, as is taking place now in the various parts of the homeland, also possess the power to succeed in every arena, be it political or nonpolitical.

Our great people, our giant generations, and our heroic revolutionaries, your course to victory is open. Let us not, God willing, allow it to be obstructed by illusions of the fearful or the conspiracies of the conspirators. Your strong arms, your hearts full of faith, and your incandescent blood will open the door to the impossible and forge miracles. Proceed forward, O great people of steadfastness and sacrifices. Proceed forward because God is with you and will grant you victory. Revolution until victory.

Qaddumi on 'Uprising,' USSR, Syria Ties

LD020911 Kuwait KUNA in English 0810 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 2 (KUNA)—Head of the PLO Political Department, Faruq Qaddumi, said in press statements here Tuesday that the current uprising in occupied lands has created a new atmosphere that would positively reflect on many stances.

Interviewed in London by AL-WATAN local daily, the Palestinian official stated that the uprising has left a deep impression on the world public opinion and carved the national identity of the Palestinian people.

He disclosed that a new Soviet initiative for a peace settlement in the Middle East would soon be presented by Moscow, but declined to give further details.

Qaddumi hoped present efforts to normalize relations between the organization and Syria would reach the desired end and renewed the PLO's support of Lebanon's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Views Influence of 'Uprising'

PM011533 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Jan 88 pp 1-2

[Zaki Musa report: "Qaddumi Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Independent Delegation for International Conference. Uprising Has Checked Israel's Role"]

[Text] London—Faruq Qaddumi [Abu al-Lutf], the head of the PLO Political Department, has once again confirmed that the ongoing Palestinian people's uprising throughout the occupied homeland has changed international positions, especially those of Israel's allies, with regard to the Palestinian cause.

Abu al-Lutf spoke with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT during his stay in the British capital, which he left 2 days ago for Tunisia. He added that this change has made it possible for the Palestinian people to realize their aspirations for the setting up of their state, as well as their right to self-determination and a return to their homeland.

He stated: "The occupied territories must be liberated, and the Palestinian people must obtain their rights."

With regard to the PLO's participation in the proposed international conference, the head of the PLO Political Department confirmed: "There is no joint bilateral delegation, but an independent Palestinian delegation." He said: "We are the sole legitimate representative. As for relations with Jordan, they are special relations."

With respect to relations with Syria, Abu al-Lutf stated: "No changes have occurred in our relations with Syria so far. However, if the siege were to be lifted from the camps, it would be a positive sign for another round in the mediations to patch up the discord between ourselves and fraternal Syria."

The day before yesterday Qaddumi concluded his 3-day visit to Britain in response to an invitation from the British opposition Labor Party. During his visit he met with party leader Neil Kinnock, British shadow foreign secretary Gerald Kaufman, and British Foreign Office Minister of State for Foreign Affairs David Mellor.

Abu al-Lutf stated that the position of the British Government has not changed, so he did not ask to meet with any official from the Foreign Office during this visit. However, he pointed to meetings with Foreign Office officials during his previous visit which took place at their request. He reiterated his praise of the statements made by British Minister David Mellor on the realities he had observed during his recent visit to the occupied territories.

Abu al-Lutf confirmed the PLO request for the UN Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities by sending UN forces or observers to ensure the protection of the people of the uprising from the Israeli onslaught and the terrorist practices against the unarmed.

Concerning the consensus which has developed in the UN Security Council in the form of Resolution 607 against the expulsions and against the policy of Israeli repression, the head of the political department said: This fact demonstrates that international recognition of the Palestinian national character and identity, which has imposed itself on the world as a whole, is complete. He added: "In the face of the embarrassment caused to them by the Israeli practices and in the face of the huge uprising, the Americans have been compelled to recognize the manifest Palestinian reality."

Concerning a government-in-exile, Qaddumi repeated: "It is a matter which must be studied by the PLO. However, the time is not yet ripe for that. Therefore, it has been referred to a legal committee for that purpose." He denied that any Arab government had suggested in one way or another the need to establish a provisional Palestinian government or a government-in-exile.

Commenting on a statement made by the enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir about his readiness to meet with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, Abu al-Lutf said: "I do not know about that, but the mere existence of the rumor means that the Palestinian character has imposed itself, and the Palestinian people will inevitably obtain their rights."

Concerning the reasons for the lack of anything new in the PLO's relations with Jordan, the head of the political department stated: "Our relations with Jordan are ties

with a fraternal state. We said in the PNC that the future of relations with Jordan will be a confederate union between two independent states."

Abu al-Lutf touched on the pope's position with regard to the Israeli practices in the Al-Aqsa Mosque and his installation of a Palestinian patriarch, saying: "We greatly appreciate the Vatican's stand; we have welcomed the statements and the appointment of a new Palestinian cardinal."

Qaddumi confirmed that the Palestinian uprising has reached its peak at the present moment: it has checked Israel's role in the West and it will achieve the desired result.

DFLP Supports 'Unified National Leadership'

JN011306 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] The DFLP today declared that the recent killing of 3 people on Palestinian soil has raised the death toll in the uprising to 98 martyrs. Despite these sacrifices, the uprising is growing and expanding to dramatize the collapse of the bloody repression, the myth of the invincible army, and the tactic of breaking the bones of Palestinians, adopted by Israel's Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

A DFLP official spokesman urged all the Palestinian forces, bodies, and personalities in the occupied land to continue to work under the banner and instructions of the Unified National Leadership of the uprising, which is part and parcel of the PLO, and to join its affiliated committees around the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The spokesman warned about the consequences of deviating from the decisions of the Unified National Leadership, stressing that the uprising will continue and escalate until occupation is ended and independence achieved.

Lebanese Shi'ite Leader Issues Message

JN011845 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1402 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Message from Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Supreme Shi'ite Council in Lebanon, "to our kinfolk in Palestine"—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God, Lord of the universe. God's prayers and peace be upon our prophet Muhammad, his scion, and his companions.

Dear brothers and sons. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. In these blessed days, you are forging for the Arabs and Muslims a new and bright history that changes the balances of power, not only in Palestine but in the world as well. The heart of the Muslim world beats with you; the heart of the Arab world beats with you through the hearts of hundreds of millions of your Arab and Muslim brothers who have been honored by your struggle and sacrifices. You have raised their heads high and made them proud. You introduced a new element into the confrontation with the Zionist entity usurping Palestine when you showed that entity and its patrons in the East and the West that it is the Palestinian people who act and decide. Your sacrifices daily convey messages to all the regimes in the Arab and the Muslim worlds, as well as to the world at large. They convey messages to all the hearts of all the peoples who support you in your demand for our right in Palestine, for every grain of its sacred and dear soil, in every valley, mountain, and hill of Palestine.

By your struggle you have set a magnificent example for all strugglers, particularly your brothers in southern Lebanon, who are inspired by your endurance, forebearance, and sacrifices in their daily confrontation of the Israeli enemy. Your messages, which you have sent with your blood and martyrs, with your hunger and thirst, which the Israeli war machine and the criminals occupying Palestine are using against you, have created a real dilemma for the Israeli regime and society and for all defeatists in the Arab and Muslim world. By your struggle you have faced everyone with an impregnable wall.

We can do nothing other than to support you with all our strength and capabilities and with all that God has given to us so that we can be with you in your glorious stands.

I say to you, O brothers, never imagine that you are alone. Do not imagine at all that those who are seeking to deprive you of your rights and to bargain over them with the East and West and in the East and West, in the Arab world, in the Muslim world, or in the world at large, are capable of fulfilling their defeatism as long as you are moving on that usurped and noble land. We look forward to the day when the Israeli dilemma will grow and strike deep within Israeli society and within the structure of the Zionist regime's machine. Every hour and day in which you prolong your struggle exacerbates the dilemma you have created for all of them. Be confident that the method you have adopted, and which we hope will develop until it achieves its ultimate goals, is the right one to confront the occupation machine.

We have tried the wars of the regimes, we have tried the policies of the regimes often, and we have tried the settlements of the regimes often. We no longer trust anyone. In Lebanon we said to all the world: We do not trust anyone, and we are not waiting for anyone at all. We have declared to everyone: We have learned a lesson that is more than 40 years old, and we do not need to repeat it. We have carried out what God has blessed us to do. We are waiting for that blessing in Palestine, in every village, town, and camp in Palestine.

Be confident, dear brothers and sons, that all the forces are trying to contain and tame that revolution, and are trying to claim that they have a part in it. Prove to the whole world that you are outside such frameworks and formulas, and that the only framework and formula to

which you belong is Islam, Arabism, and Palestine. Palestine is your mother and father. No one at all can exercise trusteeship over you. No one at all knows the international equation better than you. No one at all can direct the political process in the face of the usurping Zionist entity better than you. Those incapable people, who have proved their impotency through hundreds and thousands of experiences throughout the 50 years since the formation of the Zionist entity in Palestine began, do not deserve to be trusted by us or to be relied upon by us. After God, let us rely on ourselves. Let us be confident that by our awareness and our determination we can change all equations, we can expose everyone, we can make evryone reveal their cards, we can expose the feebleness of the settlements, and we can expose the malice of imperialism.

You must have heard that some Arab leaders have proposed a plan, the first clause of which calls for a 6-month truce between the oppressed Palestinian people and the usurping Zionist war machine. The United States accepted only that clause in the plan—the clause of humiliation, shame, capitulation, selling Palestine, and liquidating the Palestinian cause—and rejected all the other clauses.

Imperialism deals with such people only with the logic of humiliation, the logic of taking without giving, the logic of deception and illusions. You alone have the truth, and you alone make the truth. God has promised us, and He fulfills His promises. Almighty God said in His glorious book: God defends those who believe. [Koranic verse] God has also said: "We will guide those who struggled for our cause." [Koranic verse] God has promised in His glorious book: "God will champion those who support His cause." [Koranic verse]

Be confident that your stands and sacrifices are not for Palestine alone, and not for the Palestinian people alone. They are for the land of all Muslims and Arabs, and for all Muslims and Arabs. You are now defending and protecting our dignity, which has been injured and violated under all skies by the forces of Zionism, its supporter the United States, and other imperialisms that have transgressed against our dignity, interests, and independence in every Arab country and in every Muslim homeland. Be confident that every drop of blood, every child's tear, every shiver of your bodies in Palestine is a debt owed to you by all Muslims, which they must pay up and which they will pay up, God willing.

May God support you. May God grant you victory. May God preserve you. We in Lebanon and elsewhere will together with you fulfill our pledge. Praise be to God, Lord of the universe. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

'Arafat Adviser Says 'Uprising' To Continue

JN3120008 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1746 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Interview with Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Salah Salamah on 31 January; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Salamah] The waves of the popular uprising are coming one after another in the occupied territory. Israel is now wagering on extinguishing the torch of the uprising and is daily asserting that calm is gradually returning to the occupied territories. However, the Palestinian people, led by the PLO, are wagering on a continuous and escalating uprising until they realize their aims. In your opinion, what are the current prospects for the uprising and the future of the occupied territories?

[Abu Sharif] Our decision is very clear. The popular uprising will continue, wave after wave, until we expel the last Israeli occupation soldier from our land, regardless of the cost. Our people who made and are still making sacrifices to realize a clear aim, raising the slogan—either freedom or death—will not allow any party, no matter how close, to channel these sacrifices in the interest of anyone except the Palestinian people.

[Salamah] As a matter of fact, certain parties try to give the impression that the uprising is a spontaneous event in which the PLO has no role whatsoever. What is the truth and what do you say to this?

[Abu Sharif] I regret to say that some Arab regimes have wittingly or unwittingly fallen into the snares of the Zionist propaganda. They have been very stupid. During the first phase of this sweeping popular uprising, the Zionist enemy accused the PLO of carrying out violent actions against the Israeli soldiers. The enemy accused the PLO of mobilizing the citizens for confrontation with the occupation soldiers. The enemy later discovered that it made a mistake and, therefore, mobilized all the Zionist propaganda media to say that it was the Islamic trend and not the PLO which was responsible for mobilizing the people and waging resistance against the occupation forces.

We have said in the past and we say now that we are proud of the nationalist stands adopted by the Islamic trend against the occupation. The Islamic trend belongs to the national ranks and the ranks of the PLO. The representatives of this Islamic trend joined the PLO in its recent National Council in Algiers. The Islamic trend is represented in our Central Council as well. Our people are strong and will not allow such machinations to confuse them. Everyone—all the political and ideological trends—took the same position and adopted the same slogan. They met under the same leadership. There is no difference between the leadership and the people in their stand against the occupation. This stand will continue until the occupation ends forever.

[Salamah] Do you think that the UN Security Council will realize these demands, given the current circumstances where the United States is threatening to use the veto?

[Abu Sharif] We are struggling in the Security Council, supported by our friends, who are also struggling for our people's right to self-determination and to establish our independent state. We expect the U.S. Administration to take a series of tactics to weaken this sweeping popular

uprising. We also expect the United States to use its Arab tools in the process. However, we are fully aware that although the United States has taken a number of steps forward—compared to its previous stands—by voting on Resolutions 605, 607, and 608, we expect the United States to stand as an obstacle in the face of international support and our people's right to self-determination. However, we are certain that the continuation of this uprising, wave after wave, will create a new factor in world public opinion, particularly in the United States, which will eventually force all these forces to recognize our right to self-determination and to the establishment of our independent state.

[Salamah] Thank you, Bassam Abu Sharif.

Demonstrations, Clashes Reported in Territories

Protests in Qalqilyah

JN011259 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1236 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Brother strugglers, we have just received the following report: Tumultuous demonstrations are now being staged in the heroic Qalqilyah. The hero demonstrators damaged the windshields of 20 Zionist vehicles and wounded 4 Zionist settlers.

Demonstrations in Ramallah

JN011300 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1238 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Brother strugglers, we have just received the following report: Demonstrations and clashes are now being staged in Ramallah and are concentrated in Bitonya Street. The citizens are confronting the American Zionist enemy forces.

Clashes in Al-Burayj Camp

JN011332 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1304 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Brother strugglers, we have just received the following: The inhabitants of Al-Burayj camp in the Gaza Strip clashed with Zionist soldiers this morning. A curfew has been reimposed.

'Large Demonstrations' in Bethlehem

JN011338 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1231 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Brother strugglers, we have just received the following report: Large demonstrations are being staged in many areas of Bethlehem. The most violent of these protests are being staged at the unviersity, at the entrance to the city, and at the Rachel Grave area.

Casualties in 'Anabta

JN011352 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1309 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Brother strugglers, we have just received the following report: The citizens of 'Anabta village are staging a tumultuous demonstration against the Zionist enemy soldiers who have opened fire on the demonstrators. Two martyrs, Mu'ayyad al-Sha'ar, 21, and Murad al-Hamadallah, 17, have fallen. Moreover, 12 persons have been wounded, including struggler Nasimah Muhammad Nur and struggler Halimah al-A'raj.

Curfew in Al-Am'ari Camp

JN011400 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1313 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Brother strugglers, we have just received the following report: The heroic inhabitants of the steadfast Al-Am'ari camp have been confronting the Zionist forces of aggression since 1000 today, despite the curfew imposed on the heroic camp by the Zionist enemy troops.

Demonstrations in Hebron Area

JN011409 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1316 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Brother strugglers, we have just received the following report: The city of Hebron and its surrounding villages decided to stage demonstrations today. They began at the Al-Husayn ibn 'Ali School. The areas of Bab Al- Zawiyah, Harat Al-Shaykh, and the university graduates' league [rabitat al-jami'iyin] school have just witnessed these demonstrations.

PLO Central Committee Begins Meeting in Tunis

LD012244 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1320 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] The Central Committee of the PLO-Fatah has begun a session in Tunis in the presence of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. During these meetings, which began last night, the Central Committee is discussing ways to escalate the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people inside the occupied homeland and confront the increasing repression of the iron fist policy being carried out by the Zionist enemy against the Palestinian people.

The Central Committee will also discuss a number of Palestinian, Arab, and international political issues, particularly the situation in Lebanon in light of the latest developments.

Chad

Habre Derides Internal Opposition's Existence

LD011934 Paris Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Our special correspondent in Ndjamena, (Christophe Nejon), has asked the Chadian head of state about the opposition in his country—particularly about the fate of Goukouni Oueddei, who is again expressing a wish to return to his country but with certain conditions. Hissein Habre seems to have little inclination to negotiate with him again.

[Begin Habre recording] There is no internal aspect with regard to opposition, or if there is an internal aspect it is really secondary and derisory—a few individuals who drag themselves around from hotel to hotel, from plane to plane outside Chad. That does not cause Chadians to lose any sleep. It is you who are in the process of creating alleged opponents. There was indeed a time when internal aspects did have a certain importance, but that importance has disappeared. Today the most important problem, the problem on which war and peace depends, is the conflict which we have with foreigners—the Libyan aggression. [end recording]

SFRY POW Released 'On Humanitarian Grounds'

AB020916 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Excerpt] The Chadian Government has released on humanitarian grounds Zade Zelonovic, a Yugoslav prisoner of war captured by the FANT during the raid on the Ma'tan al-Sarra land and air base on 5 September 1987. Approximately (?60) years old, the white-bearded Yugoslav prisoner arrived at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1200. He was to be set free from there during a ceremony. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak To Visit Turkey, Meet With Evren

NC021244 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 2 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak will pay a visit to Turkey on Friday and hold a meeting with Turkish President Kenan Evren.

This was stated by Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif, who added that Mubarak's visit to Turkey will follow his visit to Italy.

Envoy Says 'No Planned' Mubarak Visit to Tunis

NC021143 Cairo MENA in English 1116 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Tunis, Feb. 2 (MENA)—Egyptian charge d'affaires here Ambassador 'Ali Mahir said there was no planned visit for Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to Tunis to be later postponed.

Foreign news agencies have reported yesterday that the visit of President Mubarak to Tunisia was put off.

Ambassador Mahir told MENA that the message President Mubarak received in Paris yesterday from the Tunisian president is related to bilateral relations and current Arab developments.

Ambassador Mahir hoped that the Egyptian and Tunisian presidents would meet shortly.

Mubarak's White House Dinner Speech 28 Jan

JN011423 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 30 Jan 88 p 3

["Text" of speech delivered by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at a banquet held in his honor at the White House on 28 January]

[Text] I thank you for your kind words and generosity. The grand reception, which we have been accorded, reflects the genuine traditions of U.S. friendship—traditions that are also deeply rooted in our culture and civilization. We value friendship and loyalty to friends. Since we arrived at the White House, we have felt the generosity and the kind welcome from President Reagan and his wife.

My meeting with President Reagan has reiterated my conviction that he is a man of wisdom and discernment, and that he represents the typical American personality. I expressed to the President my admiration for his persistent efforts, which he has been exerting for years, to make the world more secure and stable for future generations. His achievements in this regard will remain with the passage of years. I have no doubt that these achievements will be followed by other steps in the same direction in the coming months. I am also confident that regional conflicts will be placed at the top of the agenda this year.

Among these conflicts, the Middle East problems deserve special concern and top priority. There is a dire need to exert intensive efforts to stop the ongoing war in the Gulf area. There is also an important need to reactivate the peace process. We have to prove to all concerned parties that peace is the only effective and reasonable method to settle disputes and resolve problems, and that any other method is of no avail, that any other alternative is unacceptable.

There is no justification at all for the continuation of the bloodshed and destruction. As Benjamin Franklin said, there is neither a good war nor a bad peace. From this premise, Egypt did not hesitate at any moment to adopt pioneer steps to establish peace. For this reason also, I proposed a few days ago the halting of all forms of violence and repression.

I am confident that this initiative, which constitutes a prelude to a comprehensive peace, reflects the real feelings of all those who have good intentions and human principles everywhere. No one who looks forward to the future can accept the continuation of the occupation and repression. Those who have a living conscience cannot turn their eyes away from the policy of beating and shooting in a land that is sacred to all of us.

What I propose in this respect is a policy guided by hope and characterized by positive work to replace feelings of despair and fear. I do not doubt for one moment that I am not alone in this field. I know that millions of courgeous men and women who have faith support me in this endeavor everywhere.

On this opportunity, I would like to thank those Americans, Israelis, and others who have raised their voices high, championing peace and defending freedom. Such stands cannot pass without being recorded and appreciated. Throughout the years, American and Egyptian leaders have tried to establish an example of friendship and cooperation among nations. President Reagan, in particular, has greatly contributed to developing relations of friendship between Egypt and the United States. We are proud of this friendship, which is so mature that it has succeeded in overcoming the obstacles on its path, and which is so deep that it looks at the future with hope and confidence.

Our talks this morning have increased the asset of good intentions and mutual understanding that distinguish the relations between our peoples. As I have known him, President Reagan showed understanding and responsiveness. I highly appreciate his opinions and ideas. We will continue to work together as we did in the past to serve our common objectives to support peace, to reinforce progress, and to establish stability.

Finally, allow me to ask you to stand up as an expression of greeting and appreciation to President Reagan, his wife, all our friends who are present with us here, and to all American citizens.

Mubarak Senses 'Understanding' on Part of U.S.

NC300716 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0010 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has said that he sensed a great deal of understanding on the part of the United States for his ideas on giving an impetus to peace in the Middle East.

In an exclusive statement to the Abu Dhabi-based newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, the president expressed his belief that the United States will actively move to consolidate the peace efforts. Due to the political importance of this issue, he added, the U.S. Administration is studying the situation now [words indistinct] in the method of moves and action.

In his statement to be published on Saturday, President Mubarak said that his message now to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories is this: We are working for the restoration of your rights, for the establishment of peace, and for an end to the occupation. We are exerting maximum effort in this respect, and I hope that practical results will soon emerge.

President Mubarak stressed the need to reach agreement on an international conference in order to calm the situation in the occupied Arab land and halt the violence, noting that the agreement on holding an international conference will give the Palestinians hope for resolving their cause.

Al-Baz on U.S., Soviet Roles in Peace Process

TA311046 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Dr Usamah al-Baz, President Husni Mubarak's political adviser, by Washington correspondent Shim'on Schiffer; date not given—passages within quotation marks recorded in English followed by Schiffer's translation into Hebrew]

[Text] [Schiffer] Speaking informally, Dr al-Baz does not give high grades to U.S. Administration leaders on their understanding of the Middle East. Still, what do the Americans plan to do? What was President Mubarak told in Washington?

[Al-Baz] "They don't know yet what they are going to do precisely because they don't have a comprehensive vision. I don't think that they have reached definite conclusions with respect to a concrete formula for movement."

[Schiffer] Dr al-Baz says that the Americans accepted the basic assumption that the situation is dangerous and that they must take the initiative. On the eve of President Mubarak's visit to Washington, President Reagan promised him that the idea of an international conference is alive and kicking. In the near future, the United States plans to concentrate on questions of substance, Dr al-Baz says. But, he adds, most work is up to the sides involved in the conflict. The incidents in the territories have renewed old images of Israel as an occupying power endangering the Arabs. The change will not come overnight, but there is a chance. Egypt is prepared to assist by mediating between Israel and its Arab neighbors. Dr

al-Baz mockingly rejects the proposals attributed to the prime minister at the end of the week to hold elections in the territories or to return to the autonomy plan. This is a gimmick, he says.

[Al-Baz] "All these ideas, I believe that they are gimmicks only. The question of holding elections in the West Bank and Gaza is not a genuine plan because if it is genuine then elections should be held freely, without any interference by the Israeli Government."

[Schiffer] Dr al-Baz adds that if there are to be elections they must be held freely without any Israeli interference and under international supervision, and not with Israel as occupiers. The return to the autonomy talks is another gimmick.

[Al-Baz] "Those who are opposed to the international conference in Israel would stick to the same ideas, the negativism, the strict interpretation of the Camp David accords, and their insistence on using the Camp David formula or misusing it to perpetuate the Israeli control."

[Schiffer] The conversation with Dr Usamah al-Baz is first-hand evidence on what is happening at the center of presidential power in Egypt, in Arab capitals and, these days, also in the U.S. Administration with regard to its thoughts on the Middle East. The U.S. Administration is confused, Dr Al-Baz says, and this is what was heard from them during President Mubarak's visit.

[Al-Baz] "As a general principle, they have no disagreement with the idea of holding an international conference. This was mentioned at the highest level by the Americans, and was reiterated in a letter from President Reagan to President Mubarak. They are not opposed to the holding of an international conference. They want to make sure that the holding of the conference will not block direct negotiations, and will not hurt the interests of peace in the region."

[Schiffer] Dr al-Baz says the Americans believe that we should now concentrate on substance rather than on procedures, and Egypt agrees to that. I asked him: Did you not make a mistake in the past few years when you relied only on ties you built up with Shim'on Peres and 'Ezer Weizman, and ignored Yitzhaq Shamir?

[Al-Baz] "First of all, we are not dealing with a certain faction in Israel alone, to the exclusion of any other factions, because it is our responsibility and it is our desire to deal with Israel as an institution. We consider Israel a state and, as such, we deal with anybody there, whoever is in charge (?there). For that reason, the president is exchanging letters, exchanging views, with the prime minister. He sent him three letters in the past 3 months, and he got three replies."

[Schiffer] Dr al-Baz says various emissaries were sent to Mr Shamir, and Egypt has no problem in contacts with Mr Shamir. A meeting between Shamir and Mubarak is not feasible at present. Such a meeting makes sense only if it can bring about real results; otherwise, we will witness bitterness and frustration. Nevertheless, Dr al-Baz says he does not deny that partners who are capable of saying yes are preferred.

[Al-Baz] "Today we are lucky to have an Arab partner and an Israeli partner. Tomorrow we might not have an Arab partner who is willing to sit down and negotiate on the Palestinian issue. I cannot exclude the possibility that 5 years from today you will not have an Israeli partner that would be willing to sit down and negotiate."

[Schiffer] It is possible, Dr Usamah al-Baz says, that a situation would arise when Israelis would try to impose annexation by force. The international conference in the proposed format is a golden opportunity and Egypt will fulfill the role of a good neighbor. Dr al-Baz says that nobody is telling Israel that it will have to sit down with George Habash, Nayif Hawatimah, or Ahmad Jibril. Israel will sit down with Palestinians who believe in the cause of peace and who will be prepared to take risks for peace. King Husayn sharply criticized the U.S. Administration at the end of the week and claimed that the United States is in the grip of the extremists in Israel. Dr al-Baz shows understanding for these charges.

[Al-Baz] "By adopting certain policies that say we are not moving unless there is consensus in Israel to move, by adopting this line the U.S. would be haphazardly associating itself with the position of the hardliners."

[Schiffer] On another issue, Dr al-Baz refers with respect, and almost with admiration, to Menachem Begin. We had serious disagreements with him, says Dr al-Baz, but he was an intellectual who was prepared to change part of his most inner-self. The work must be done by the sides involved in the conflict. The superpowers can only help at this or that stage. Why include the Soviet Union in the process since it does not want to renew relations with Israel?

[Al-Baz] "If you do this and that, there are certain indications and signals—some of them have emerged and some might emerge in the coming few months—that the Soviets are willing to be flexible on this point. How far can they be flexible remains to be seen."

[Schiffer] Your willingness to include Soviets in the conference would be of help, Al-Baz says. He went on to disclose that he and others in Egypt are pressuring the Soviets to normalize relations with Israel. Returning to the situation in the territories and the message it is emitting, Al-Baz says: There is at present a real opportunity for an agreement, seize it.

[Al-Baz] "The soul or the psyche of every Israeli: How could an Israeli, of all the people of the world, accept that the Jewish people of Israel would become indifferent to the suffering of other people; that for the first time in history, certain Jews would be forced to inflict suffering,

damage, to kill, to hurt, to such and such. I believe that the impact on the young Israeli soldiers and other Israelis, their families and so on, the impact of the policy of shooting and beating and so on, would be long-lasting, and the only way to stop this vicious circle is to transform the situation from this present and crazy tension into an atmosphere where the parties would sit down and begin the process. I am not saying that it is easy, and I can't over-simplify it because I know how complicated it is."

Makramallah Returns From New York 1 Feb

NC020728 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2250 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 1 Feb (MENA)—Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, returned to Cairo from New York this evening after participating in discussions in Washington between the delegation accompanying President Husni Mubarak and the U.S. Administration.

Upon his arrival, Dr Makramallah said that President Mubarak's visit to the United States was very significant, especially in economic terms. He said that his ministry will prepare a plan in the next few days to achieve the greatest benefit from the U.S. aid program approved recently by the U.S. Congress amounting to approximately $2.1 billion, including $115 million in cash, which will be used to bolster 5-year plan projects.

Abu Ghazalah on National Security, Gulf War

NC011633 Cairo MENA in English 1445 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, Feb 1 (MENA)—Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy premier and minister of defence and war production, said today that Egypt's military strength was the mainstay of national security.

The people drew their strength from the strength of their armed forces which are the main bulwark in the defence of society against any outside threat or hostile forces lying in wait, he said.

The field marshal was speaking at a meeting held here in which he discussed national security.

"We believe in peace and want stability in order to build a society which meets the needs of the people," he declared.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said certain quarters (which he did not name) wanted to create instability in order to realise many aims, including expansion, imposing their influence or spreading their extremist ideas.

Egyptian strategy of deterrence as part of the peace policy was the best guarantee of Egyptian national security, he said.

Abu Ghazalah said that joint military production would provide a great part of the needs of the Arab nation "away from the influence of middlemen."

He said that joint production would provide Arab deterrent capabilities which would serve national aims away [as received] free of outside influence.

He said that Iraq's position in the Gulf conflict was strong.

Iraq had an edge over Iran in both the quantity and quality in arms and in performance. He gave as an example Iran's reluctance so far to launch the attack the Iranians had talked about so much.

Proposal To Send Forces to Gulf Rejected

PM021025 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Jan 88 p 1

[Muhammad Nawwar report: "Egypt Rejects a Proposal To Send Its Forces to Gulf"]

[Text] AL-SHA'B has learned that the Egyptian leadership has recently rejected an American proposal calling for the dispatch of Egyptian forces to participate with the U.S. forces in protecting Kuwaiti tankers. This proposal came after mounting requests in Congress for a reduction in U.S. forces because of increasing costs.

The U.S. secretary of defense submitted the proposal to President Mubarak when they met in Riyadh, where they discussed ways of strengthening the Egyptian military role in the Gulf. The defense secretary linked the possibility of replacing the U.S. forces with Egyptian forces to protect Kuwaiti tankers to the possibility of [Egyptian] intervention in the Iraq-Iran war in the event of a deterioration in the Iraqi position and of Iranian threats extending to Kuwait and the other Gulf states. President Mubarak completely rejected the idea, maintaining that the Gulf forces are capable of defending their states and do not need Egyptian forces.

AL-SHA'B has learned that the military reports prepared by Egyptian military experts after a general survey of the areas of confrontation in the Gulf confirmed a flaw in the defense system, and that alternative plans have been drawn up to rectify the situation on the front. Furthermore, high standard plans have been drawn up in order to raise the efficiency of the Gulf [states'] troops in intensive short term programs.

Ghali Stresses Support for Palestinian Uprising

NC011356 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 1 Feb (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has reiterated Egypt's condemnation of the Israeli occupation authorities' repressive practices and measures in the occupied Arab territories. He also underlined Egypt's support for the Palestinian people's uprising and its solidarity with their just struggle for their legitimate rights.

This was stated during Dr Ghali's meeting here today with Bernard Miles, the UNRWA representative in the occupied Gaza Strip, who reviewed the deteriorating situation in the Gaza Strip and the UNRWA's efforts to alleviate the Palestinians' sufferings.

Al-Zahawi on Upcoming Talks To Reschedule Debts

NC011927 Cairo MENA in English 1730 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, Feb 1 (MENA)—The coming few days will witness intensive activity in negotiations between Egypt and creditor countries in a bid to reschedule Egypt's debts during the period January 1, 1987, to June 1988.

This was stated today by 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Zahawi, first undersecretary of the Ministry of International Cooperation.

He said he had discussed in the past ten days during a tour he made which included Britain, Denmark and Holland, means of completing, before the end of this month, negotiations on rescheduling debts.

Al-Zahawi has found big understanding from creditor governments. He expected talks with creditor countries to end in the second half of February.

Egypt has completed talks on the rescheduling of debts with France, the United States, Spain and the Federal Republic of Germany. There are 18 creditor countries altogether.

Libya

Envoys Briefed on U.S. 'Hostile Intentions'

LD011510 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Feb (JANA)—The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison today received the ambassadors of three permanent members of the UN Security Council: the USSR, China, and France.

The People's Committee briefed the ambassadors on the U.S. Administration's hostile intentions as heard over the Voice of America, which expresses the U.S. Government's views, with regard to what the People's Committee described as the U.S. Administration's and the Egyptian regime's identical views on what the radio station called the Libyan threat.

The committee asserted that this revealed a hostile scheme planned by the U.S. Administration, in coordination with the Egyptian regime, against the people of the Great Jamahiriyah.

Algerian Envoy Conveys Bendjedid Message

LD310118 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received the ambassador of fraternal Algiera to the Great Jamahiriyah, who conveyed a message from President Chadli Bendjedid.

The Algeria ambassador then immediately left Tripoli for Algeria carrying the reply of the brother leader of the revolution to President Chadli Bendjedid.

Arab Monetary Fund Official Departs After Visit

LD012323 Tripoli JANA in English 1817 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nuwar [February] 1, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Dr. "'Abdallah Ibrahim al-Quwayz" the director-general and chairman of the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) left Tripoli this morning at the end of a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to JANA's envoy, he asserted that at a time [when] the world economy suffers from slow growth and acute fluctuations in the exchange rates of the major currencies—which had affected the economies of the developing countries especially oil producing ones—Great Jamahiriyah managed efficiently to survive such changes out of its control and establish economic growth.

He said: "The Libyan balance of payment has shown a surplus in 1985 and a balance in 1986. It is expected to show a surplus in 1987".

He added: "Jamahiriyah is undertaking ambitious programmes aimed at expanding the sources of income such as the petrochemical industry which had increased Jamahiriyah's export of it by 6 percent in 1987. The giving of a greater role for agriculture and industry and the encouraging of family and individual product [as received] had put Jamahiriyah in a better position than many developing countries which were directly affected by the world economic crisis.

Sudan's Industry Minister Ends Visit 1 Feb

LD012311 Tripoli JANA in English 1801 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nuwar [February] 1, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—Mubarak 'Abdullah al-Mahdi, the minister of industry in the Republic of Sudan left Tripoli at noon today at the end of a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Nigerian Envoy 29 Jan

LD292018 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1914 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, 29 Jan (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution today received the Nigerian minister of state for external affairs, who is also the envoy of

Nigerian President Babangida. The minister arrived in the Great Jamahiriyah to take part in the funeral of Major Abu Bakr Kannah, the victim of a terrorist assassination carried out by the criminal clique of Ndjamena.

The envoy conveyed a message of sympathy from the Nigerian president to the brother leader.

Nigerian Delegation Departs

LD302047 Tripoli JANA in English 1741 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, Ayn al-Nar [January] 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Nigerian minister of state for foreign affairs, Mohammad Zigam Anka, and the delegation in his company left Tripoli after a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Nigerian Muslim Delegation

LD012008 Tripoli JANA in English 1815 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nuwar [February] 1, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received a delegation of Nigerian Muslims from the Islamic Guidance Bureau in "Kano" state headed by "Bashir Othman Tofa" [name as received].

Bashir Tofa expressed Nigerian Muslims' appreciation to the leader when he said: "Muslims in Nigeria consider Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi as a leader of the whole Islamic Nation".

He added: "We do not know anyone like you who had allocated all his time to serve Islam and Muslims. Allah will make you victorious over your enemies always".

He went on to say: "All the time we follow up what you say and what you do. We consider you as a symbol to follow and we are with you always for the purpose of accomplishing the goals you call for and we are determined to press along the road of holy war—Jihad.

Morocco

Egypt's Mubarak To Begin Visit, Talks 2 Feb

LD011752 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Rabat, 1 Feb (MAP)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will begin a working visit to Morocco tomorrow, Tuesday. During his stay, he will have political talks with His Majesty King Hassan II which will focus on ways to strengthen bilateral relations, as well as new Arab developments led by the sweeping popular uprising in occupied Palestine.

It is expected that the Moroccan-Egyptian summit talks will also deal with issues of mutual interest. The Moroccan monarch will hold two working sessions with his Egyptian guest.

On his visit to Morocco, the Egyptian President is accompanied by an important delegation which includes 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Prime Minister Laraki Departs for Tunisia 1 Feb

LD011143 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1100 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Rabat, 1 Feb (MAP)—Dr Azzedine Laraki, Moroccan prime minister, left Rabat this morning on his way to Tunis for a 3-day official visit at the invitation of his Tunisian counterpart, Hedi Baccouche.

In a press statement prior to his departure, Dr Laraki stressed that this visit is an opportunity to bolster ties of friendship and brotherhood between Morocco and Tunisia and an attempt to develop cooperation in the fields of culture, education, industry, and commerce.

The Moroccan Prime minister expressed hope that this visit will contribute to consolidating the bases of the Arab Maghreb we are all aspiring to with confidence and dedication.

Sudan

Ethiopian Planes Violate Airspace 31 Jan

JN021121 Khartoum SUNA in English 1048 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 2 (SUNA)—The Ethiopian warplanes are still continuing their violations to the Sudanese air space [and] the last violation took place two days ago State Minister at the Ministry of Defence Gen Fadlallah Burma said in a statement to the daily AL-SIYASAH today.

He told the paper that the violations of the Ethiopian planes to the Sudanese air space on the eastern borders go against the efforts exerted so far to restore stability and good neighbourhood relations between the two countries. The defence official has asserted however that steps have been taken to repulse any foreign violation to the Sudanese air space.

Meanwhile an Ethiopian soldier who had recently surrendered to Sudanese Armed Forces has revealed that he and other Ethiopian nationals were instructed to blow up the electricity installations and energy stations in Kassala town eastern Sudan.

The Sudanese independent daily AL-SUDANI which reported the news quoted sources in Kassala as saying that the town has witnessed an increase in the intelligence activities due to the noticeable presence of relief organizations operating there.

The news report by the AL-SUDANI daily says the Ethiopian intelligence elements have Kassala as their spring board and this is attributed to the heavy presence of Eritrean refugees in the area.

It is to be recalled that Armed Forces last month arrested a number of people who are said to be collaborators with the Ethiopian intelligence units.

Al-Mirghani Receives Iraqi Ambassador 1 Feb

LD012326 Khartoum SUNA in English 1734 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb.1, (SUNA)—Head of the Council of the State, Sayyid Ahmed al-Mirghani, discussed here Monday [with] the Iraqi ambassador to the Sudan bilateral relations and regional issues of common interest.

In a statement after the meeting, the Iraqi ambassador said that he had touched during the meeting a keenness on the part of Sayyid al-Mirghani to promote bilateral relations. He said the meeting had focussed on the situation in southern Sudan and Dr Pacifico Lolik's visit to Iraq which he described as "highly important and expresses the speciality of Sudan's Arab-African location". The visit will cater positively for the development of relations between Iraq and the southern Sudan parties in particular and the Sudan and Iraq in general, the ambassador said.

Also discussed during the meeting were the Iraq-Iraq war, the efforts of international community to put into action UN Security Council Resolution 598 and the efforts being exerted to press Iran to comply with the resolution. On the agenda was also the situation in the occupied Arab territories and the continuing uprising of the Palestinian masses.

Al-Mahdi Explains Decision on Entry Visas

JN011155 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1023 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Feb (SUNA)—Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi yesterday said that the security authorities' measure of denying entry into Sudan for some Arab countries' delegations seeking to participate in the work of the Sudanese Revolutionary Committees was essential to safeguard the internal front and to bridge the security gaps in the country.

He explained that the assassination of Mahdi Muhsin al-Hakim in Khartoum recently, during the convocation of the second general conference of the National Islamic Front, has revealed security gaps. He stated: These gaps must be closed because they can negatively affect Sudan's security.

He added that any conference of this sort will be viewed within this framework. He affirmed that he will allow invitees into Sudan only after insuring that adequate security measures have been adopted.

According to some domestic papers, the authorities have refused to grant entry visas to the delegations which the Revolutionary Committees Movement intended to invite to its conference scheduled to be convened next Thursday.

Arab States Extend Support to Armed Forces

EA020036 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Brother comrades-in-arms and honorable listeners, peace and God's mercy be upon you. The statements made by His Excellency Mirghani al-Nasri, member of the State Council and the official in charge of Arab affairs for the Council, have stressed the extension of greater military Arab support for the Armed Forces. With their Arab nationalist spirit, the Arab states have affirmed their commitment to stand alongside Sudan and its Armed Forces in a bid to foil the international design to obliterate Sudan's African Arab identity and hinder its capacity to give generously of itself as an Arab and African country. [passage omitted]

The Armed Forces have witnessed two events throughout the previous week. The first is related to the visit of the brotherly Libyan military delegation to the Armed Forces, during which great military support was provided. The delegation stressed the solidity of relations between the two armies and peoples.

The second event is related to the support that Algeria has (?promised) to provide for Sudan in the form of its Armed Forces, which are helping confront the rebellion.

The military contacts with the brothers in the Arab states' armies have been undertaken to implement this support and to shape the relations between these armies and the Armed Forces in all spheres pertaining to upgrading, training, and support.

Mirghani al-Nasri Discusses War in South

PM011418 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 28 Jan 88 p 8

[Interview with State Council member Mirghani al-Nasri by Mohamed Larbi in Algiers; date not given]

[Text] [Larbi] Despite the change which took place in 1985, Sudan is facing a difficult problem; namely, the war in the south. Can you remind us of the causes of that conflict?

[Al-Nasri] This problem arose after the abrogation of the 1972 Addis Ababa agreements, which made this region a unified and autonomous province. Deposed President Ja'far Numayri unilaterally condemned those agreements and divided that region into three provinces (Upper Nile, Bahr al-Ghazal, and Equatoria). Rebel leader John Garang seized that opportunity to start a war and prompted an uprising by some tribes which supported him, although at the beginning he had no more than 300 men. By interpreting the former dictator's decision differently—in other words, by claiming that the decision to abrogate the 1972 peace agreements was inspired by the Shari'a—he tried to obtain foreign support. Some humanitarian organizations even went along with John Garang's movement.

These were asked to leave Sudanese territory, whereas others—those which did not engage in any form of interference—are continuing their mission without any problems.

[Larbi] Some people claim that this conflict is religious and racial.

[Al-Nasri] Once again, that is untrue. This conflict is not racial or religious. You must remember that the abrogation of the agreements which ended more than a decade of civil war closely followed the promulgation of other laws like the Shari'a. This was a pretext for confusing the issue and talking about a religious conflict. Giving such an aspect to the conflict was aimed solely at obtaining aid from foreign powers. Moreover, that was proved in the field because things very quickly changed from guerrilla warfare to conventional war. Garang's movement set up an administration and even said that it was going to celebrate New Year in Khartoum. A general mobilization was ordered, and our Armed Forces succeeded in besieging John Garang's forces and blocking their advance. It is his movement which is racial and wants to undermine Sudan's Arab-Islamic vocation. The Sudanese people, on the other hand, want to defeat that movement by peaceful means. On 9 April 1985, Garang was invited to end this war and take his place in the new government, because it was the start of a democratic regime. We are continuing our efforts to reach a peaceful settlement by holding a constitutional conference.

[Larbi] Numerous meetings with the Sudanese National Alliance and the existing authorities are continuing but have not yet produced any results. Fighting has intensified. What are the reasons for these failures?

[Al-Nasri] Since the fall of the dictatorship, the two sides have had contacts which even made it possible to hold serious discussions, but each time progress was undermined, sometimes in a dramatic way. I will just mention the two civil aircraft shot down by Garang's army. There were terrible human losses. Our only reaction was to issue another call for peace. The only answer we received was violent. A train loaded with food for the population in the south was attacked. Once again, we stood by our positions and continued negotiations because we thought for a long time that John Garang really wanted peace. Howvever, it is increasingly obvious that that is not the case.

[Larbi] A few days ago the Sudanese prime minister announced that a cease-fire agreement had been reached, but that was denied by the Southern People's Liberation Army.

[Al-Nasri] That announcement was the result of the meeting in London between the minister of state for defense and representatives of John Garang. The agreement was also questioned after the Kurmuk battle. This proves that Garang does not want peace.

[Larbi] Some Sudanese parties have recently signed a provisional charter. What are its broad outlines?

[Al-Nasri] This charter is temporary; in other words, it will be in force until a constitutional conference is held. Such a conference is due to be held this year. Its main guidelines are the consolidation of democracy and the establishment of social justice. It guarantees the same rights and duties for all citizens. With regard to the southern region, the 1972 peace agreements have been renewed. It also makes provision for a fair distribution of state responsiblities (presidency, ministers, diplomatic corps). It recommends that more attention be paid to the country's remotest regions. It also encourages the adoption of new laws to replace the 1983 laws.

'Adil on Rebellion, Need for Security Organ

LD012248 Khartoum SUNA in English 1722 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb. 1 (SUNA)—Member of (the coalition partner) Ummah Party Politburo and Minister of Education, Bakri Ahmad 'Adil, stated that the southern Sudan problem had uncovered how far foreign powers have gone in backing the rebellion in the Sudan. He also said that this problem had evidently proved that the Sudan's eastern neighbour, referring to Ethiopia, is obviously assisting the rebellion and that Sudan's northern neighbour, in an apparent reference to Egypt, is adopting a neutral attitude towards this issue "considering it as a Sudanese internal matter that concerns the Sudan only".

Speaking to the independent Arabic daily AL-SIYASAH published here today, the minister said between the ingratitude of the northern neighbour, referring to Egypt, and treason of the eastern neighbour, referring to Ethiopia, the Sudan found itself between the devil and the deep blue sea, and the Sudanese leadership found themselves pushed to seek a friend elsewhere.

The member of the Ummah Party Politburo pointed out that the conflict would continue as far as "there are some quarters which financially and militarily back the rebellion.

He added that "we need to revise and reorganize our friends' list to know who of them is really on the top and who is spontaneously placed on the top by some political parties".

The minister, further, inquired about the role that should be played by the southern political parties regarding security stability in the southern part of the country in particular and all-over the Sudan as general and the effective political work the southern politicians could undertake to encounter the rebellion.

The minister said the attitude of these political parties forces one to raise fingers of accusation towards them and that they are required to acquit themselves from sympathy with the rebellion.

The member of the Ummah Politburo has further pointed to the failure of the government to create an efficient security organ in the country.

The minister said the absence of an efficient security organ has led to the instability of security in the Sudan and the deterioration of the economic situation.

The minister also pointed to the row over whether the state security organ should be under the leadership of the Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi or the Interior Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn.

The minister further criticized his own party for failing to convince its partner, in the coalition government, as to the creation of the security organ. He said that his own personal view is that the coalition should not be at the expense of the stability and the security of the Sudan.

SPLM, Clemency Council Talks 'Successful'

LD012043 Khartoum SUNA in English 1718 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb. 1, (SUNA)—The Clemency Council held successful talks in Addis Ababa with the leaders of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

[Word indistinct] among the issues discussed was the transportation of relief to the war torn areas in southern Sudan and ways of [word indistinct] relief traffic in the region.

The Moslem Christian Council, comprising top brass officials, has been [in] Addis Ababa for a week now, to carry on official talks on the situation in southern Sudan.

SPLA Destroys Truck; Recent Successes Noted

EA020219 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1100 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Excerpts] An enemy Magirus vehicle detonated a land mine planted by SPLA forces at Khawr Adh Dhahab on the Damazin-Qaysan road. Our correspondent says that 28 enemy soldiers were killed, including a captain who could not be identified. [passage omitted] Our correspondent says that all the enemy troops onboard the vehicle that was blown up were killed and that an antiaircraft machinegun aboard the vehicle was destroyed. [passage omitted] As we told you earlier, SPLA forces are conducting guerrilla warfare in southern Blue Nile areas.

SPLA fire units around Gogrial, under the operational command of Captain Samuel Deng Deng and the overall con.. and of Commander Daniel Aweit Akjot, ambushed enemy troops 3 miles from Gogrial on 14 January 1988. Our correspondent says that these troops were on a food search mission. Two of them were killed, and the rest fled back to Gogrial. [passage omitted]

SPLA forces of the Sam Task Force, under the operational command of Lance Corporal (Angelo Loro Ochopio), raided the town of Qaysan during the day on 20 January 1988. Our correspondent says that 25 enemy troops were killed and many were seriously injured. [passage omitted]

SPLA units around Akobo, under the direct command of Commander Peter Panom Tan Pin, heavily shelled enemy positions inside Akobo town. Our correspondent says that five enemy soldiers were killed and one was seriously wounded. [passage omitted]

Military Denies Rebel Control in Equatoria

LD020001 Khartoum SUNA in English 1727 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 1 (SUNA)—A military spokesman today denied news published yesterday saying that the rebels are controlling some villages and towns in Equatoria region.

The military spokesman said that the rebels had stationed around the villages of Kayala and Farjok [names as received] but the Armed Forces repulsed them and inflicted heavy losses [words indistinct] on them and compelled them to withdraw from the mentioned areas.

"All the military units and garrisons in the region are doing their duties in their sites except Kapoeta which the Armed Forces are intending to recapture", he said.

Kuwait

Editorial Criticizes Soviet Support for Iran

JN011114 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 30 Jan 88 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "The Soviet-Iranian Partnership"]

[Text] Exciting scenes and games of political maneuvering in the Iraq-Iran war continue almost incessantly. Since the Soviet Union declared its intention to withdraw 115,000 Soviet soldiers from Afghanistan by the end of this year, Iran has been trying to suggest that it is moving away from the Soviet axis and that its rejection of Resolution 598 is dictated by Iranian considerations and not common Iranian-Soviet interests.

As far as we know, using a UN-flagged fleet to protect the international waterways in the Gulf was basically a Soviet proposal. Moscow proposed it to satisfy Iran within the context of its rivalry with the United States over maintaining a large military presence in the Gulf. Today, the Iranian foreign minister comes up with a new idea and declares his rejection of the Soviet proposal because a foreign presence in the Gulf, as he says, increases tension.

Hence, there are changes in balances and alliances, which make us believe that the game is continuing and that the next chapters of the war might be more exciting and more tragic. Changes in the Iranian and Soviet stands and policies can only be interpreted as Moscow and Tehran wanting to keep the best trump cards in the game of international bargaining in a manner that will add to their joint information and political confrontation with the United States. The Soviet Union is fully aware that its stand in support of Iran's position on the Gulf war and the implementation of Resolution 598 and the latter's rejection of it, as well as the Soviet stand toward the arms embargo, has harmed its name and poisoned its relations with the region's states. Therefore, the Soviet Union is now trying to beautify its image. Hence, the Soviet foreign minister announced in Kabul that Moscow wanted this year to be the last regarding the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

The message which Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal conveyed to the Soviet leaders on behalf of the GCC states reflected the GCC states' desire to see Moscow adopt a more positive and realistic policy toward the efforts being exerted to pass a resolution imposing an arms embargo on Iran and forcing it to respect the international will by ceasing fire and settling the conflict peacefully.

What is certain is that the Soviet policy toward conflicts and crises in the region stem from the same Iranian considerations which are based on wasting efforts, squandering capabilities, exhausting Arab energies, preoccupying the Arabs in bloody conflicts, and maintaining bridges of dialogue between the Soviet Union and Iran versus the U.S. bridges.

The only interpretation of this policy, which is based on profit relations alone, is that the Soviet aim behind delaying an arms embargo on Iran conforms with the Tehran rulers' policy to utilize the results of the war in delaying any internal explosions as a result of the mullahs' struggle for power. It is not in the interest of the Russians to weaken the Iranian position unless new changes occur and make it necessary to adopt new Soviet stands vacillating between diplomatic maneuvering and political realism.

What is certain, based on Iranian policies, is that the Iranian rejection of the Soviet proposal is a foregone conclusion and is closer to maneuvering than seriousness since Iran's attitude toward the war has not changed. Iran is awaiting the right time and opportunity to launch its premeditated aggression on Basra. Since war for the Iranian regime is a strategic need to which it is absolutely committed, maneuvering, flaccidity, and unclear stands are likewise a Soviet strategy toward the Palestine question, occupation, and the Iraq-Iran war. Any other concept is, in our opinion, an impotent one whose falsehood and unrealism has been proved.

Oman

Iraqi Delegation Arrives for Committee Meetings

JN311512 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] His Excellency Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, minister of transport and communications in the fraternal Republic of Iraq, and his accompanying delegation arrived in the country this afternoon on an official visit to the Sultanate that is scheduled to last several days. During the visit, he will chair his country's delegation to the fourth meeting of the Omani-Iraqi joint committee.

In an arrival statement, the Iraqi guest expressed pleasure at visiting the Sultanate of Oman. He said that the Omani-Iraqi joint committee will discuss a number of issues related to cooperation between the two fraternal countries. He added that they will focus on bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture. His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id has urged concentration in this field, he reported. Other areas of cooperation, including education and trade, will also be discussed.

His Excellency the Iraqi transport and communications minister added that the meetings held among brothers will certainly serve the Arab nation and that the talks held during these meetings will seek to enhance fraternal ties and benefit the Arab people.

The Iraqi guest and the delegation accompanying him were received by His Excellency Hamud ibn 'Abdallah al-Harithi, minister of communications; the Iraqi ambassador accredited to the Sultanate; and His Excellency Salim ibn 'Ali al-Siyabi, acting under secretary at the Ministry of Communications.

GCC's Bisharah Arrives, Makes Statement 31 Jan

JN311454 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] His Excellency 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, secretary general of the GCC Council, arrived in the country at noon today on a 3-day visit to the Sultanate.

In an arrival statement, his excellency said that the purpose of his visit to the Sultanate is to hold talks and to exchange views with officials on preparations for the upcoming meetings of the GCC economy ministers. He added that his talks with Omani officials will also deal with expanding economic and trade cooperation among the GCC members. Asked about the GCC's role in mediation between Iraq and Iran on the war, he replied that the GCC states are holding continued contacts with both countries to ease tension between the two neighbors in an effort to find new approaches to stop the conflict and end any foreign presence in the region.

His Excellency 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah was received by His Excellency Ambassador Khamis ibn Hamad al-Battashi, director of the Foreign Ministry Protocol Department.

PDRY

Industry Minister Returns From Addis Ababa Talks

EA291855 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Brother Dr 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Uthman, member of the Central Committee, minister of industry, trade, and supply, and head of the Yemeni side on the joint Ethiopian-Yemeni economic committee, returned to Aden at noon today after participating in the seventh session of the committee, which was held in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, 22-29 January.

In a statement to ADEN NEWS AGENCY, the brother minister of industry, trade, and supply explained that the committee had examined the progress made in implementing the economic and social cooperation program between the two countries. It also reviewed the level of implementation for 1987, and joint activities carried out last year were discussed. He said that during the session, he met with comrade Ethiopian officials from the joint committee, relevant ministries, and other establishments. All aspects of joint cooperation in various spheres including trade, agriculture, transport, communications, tourism, education, energy, and minerals were discussed in detail. He noted that the work of the committee took place in an atmosphere of understanding, friendship, and joint responsibility. He pointed out that a general protocol on the session and a trade exchange protocol for 1988 were signed. [passage omitted]

'Abdallah Departs for Working Visit to North

EA020018 Aden ANA in Arabic 1346 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Aden, 1 Feb (ANA)—Comrade Fald Muhsin 'Abdallah, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, left Aden this afternoon on his way to Ta'iz accompanied by Colonel Haytham Qasim Tahir, candidate member of the Political Bureau, deputy minister of defense, and chief of the General Staff. They are on a working visit during which they will hold discussions with the brothers in the leadership of the northern part of the homeland with regard to the current situation in the Yemeni arena and ways to strengthen joint unification efforts by leaders in both parts to unite the territory and people of the homeland peacefully and democratically.

ANA has learned that the delegation from the southern part of the homeland will study with the brothers in the northern part a joint project to prospect for oil in the common area situated between the governorates of Shabwah [PDRY] and Ma'rib [YAR]. They will also discuss issues relevant to maintaining the necessary atmosphere of peace for the joint unification activity between the leaders of the two parts in all fields. This should help to ward off all threats to the security, stability, and prosperity of our one Yemeni people, and to consolidate the concern of the leaders of the two parts of Yemen to provide all the necessary peaceful conditions for advancing joint unification work to serve the interest of our Yemeni people in progress and unity.

Saudi Arabia

Council of Ministers Denounces Israeli 'Attacks'

LD012243 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1650 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 1 Feb (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general, chaired a Council of Ministers meeting this afternoon at the Al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh.

Following the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir made a statement to SPA. He reported that after a quick review of the most important events and developments in the Arab area, particularly the continuation of the high-handed and oppressive Israeli attacks on the sons of the Palestinian people in occupied Palestine, the Council had expressed deep concern, resentment, and strong denunciation of the escalating repressive Israeli practices against our Palestinian brothers in the occupied areas throughout the past few weeks within full view and hearing of the entire world.

The Council renewed its demand to international forums and organizations to accelerate intervention in an effort to stop the spilling of the Palestinian people's blood and to put an end to the flagrant Israeli aggressive acts.

The Council again declared its stand alongside the Palestinian uprising, which expresses the right of the Palestinian people to recover their land and to decide their own future.

The information minister also stated that His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz had conveyed to the Council the upshot of reports concerning security conditions in the Arabian Gulf waters, as well as the security measures that the Kingdom, under the leadership of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, has taken under the current circumstances.

In this regard, the Council expressed the eager and constant interest of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in ending the Iraq-Iran war in accordance with Security Council Resolution 598, which was welcomed by the Iraqi Government. The Council expressed hope that Iran would respond to the peace appeals and that it would make logic and conscience its arbiter. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Holds Talks in Moscow

For coverage of the arrival and activities of Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal in Moscow, including an interview and accounts of his talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Andrey Gromyko, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 29 January Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Yemen Arab Rebublic

Hungarian Delegation Makes Statement, Leaves

JN011838 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Dr Gyula Horn, state secretary in the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, left Sanaa today after a 3-day visit to our country during which he held talks with Foreign Ministry officials on bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern.

In a statement to the SABA' news agency, the Hungarian official expressed his satisfaction over our country's wish to promote and consolidate bilateral relations on a number of political and economic issues. He pointed out that his talks with Foreign Ministry officials had resulted in an agreement on a number of issues in all fields. He said that topics of mutual concern were discussed, including the Middle East, the Iraq-Iran war, current developments in the international arena, and disarmament.

The Hungarian official highly appreciated our country's foreign policy and stands. These stands, he said, are firm, logical, and reasonable, constituting a good basis for promoting our bilateral relations.

The Hungarian official was seen off by Brother Ahmad al-Iryani, Foreign Ministry under secretary, a number of other officials from the ministry, and the Hungarian commercial attache in Sanaa.

Paper Discusses Al-Asad's 'Corrupt Nature'

JN011448 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 28 Jan 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Unforgettable History and Unchangeable Nature"]

[Text] The sins of Hafiz al-Asad's regime are countless. Despite its professions and claims, it has repeatedly shown its unwillingness to renounce or atone for its sins. That regime has been given more than one opportunity to change course, but, in accordance with its corrupt nature and sinful history, has deliberately foregone them all.

That regime got its latest chance at the Amman summit. Following a long period of suffocating isolation and bitter economic crisis, and after a series of condemnations and skepticism, that wicked regime sought to bend with the wind it faced at the summit. It was compelled, by the strong facts and the moral and psychological siege imposed by the Arab consensus, to agree to the summit resolutions, foremost of which are those on Iran's aggression against Iraq. It signed those resolutions, but only as a stopgap measure.

Indeed, we had no illusions about Hafiz al-Asad, for no one knows his nature, history, and intentions as we do. No one understands his statements and conduct as we do. We knew before and after the Amman summit that he would never be good, and that the Arab nation could expect nothing positive from him. However, despite the bitterness he left in Iraqi hearts, we preferred to wait and give him a fresh opportunity to atone for his sins. We thought: It is enough that his sins are black pages, which history will never erase. But has he changed his nature and turned over those black pages to start new ones?

The answer is no. Before the ink on the Amman summit resolutions had dried, he began to break them in every way. He reverted to his old tricks and maneuvers, and rushed off to his allies in Tehran. He put them at ease as far as his policy toward them was concerned, and played his vicious role of conspirator against Iraq and the Arab nation. He was under the illusion that the sons of this nation have forgotten his black history, have been fooled by his tricks and ploys, and would keep silent about them.

However, that is impossible. His black pages will never be erased or forgotten. How can we forget his truce with the Zionists, his alliance with Iran's magus, his slaughter of the Palestinian resistance and its disintegration, his deception of the PLO, his division of Lebanon and the control of its potential, his destruction of the homes and mosques of Hamah and the murder of 25,000 of its people, and his shattering of Arab solidarity? Can a ruler do all this and then have it forgotten by any free or honorable Arab?

No. No one forgets. If Hafiz al-Asad thought he had fooled the sons of this nation with his latest trick, he actually fooled himself. He merely added another sin, that of departure from our national unanimity and the Amman summit resolutions, to his list.

Editorial Criticizes Arab Contacts With Iran

JN221206 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 19 Jan 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Only Right Is Right"]

[Text] Certain Arab parties have been making moves and holding contacts recently that are cause for astonishment and wonder. These actions remind us of the atmosphere preceding the Amman summit, which that summit sought to change.

Moreover, these moves and contacts are justified by the Iranian regime's supposed wish for cordial relations with the Arab countries and its desire to avoid any expansion of the war zone, as that regime confines its hostility and war to Iraq alone. These moves and contacts can at least be described as a return to an old policy, that of vindicating the Iranian regime, cleaning up its ugly image, and portraying it as an innocent lamb. This policy can only be explained, as it was before, as an effort to isolate Iraq from its Arab brothers, and to falsify the facts surrounding the conflict with the Iran of the charlatan Khomeyni.

The noteworthy point here is that while all this takes place, the charalatans' regime in Iran is preparing for a new aggression against Iraq. It is doing all this without changing its intentions, behavior, or comments toward other Arab states, especially those of the Arabian Gulf. Accordingly, it goes without saying that these moves, in their nature, intentions, and timing conflict with the letter and spirit of the Amman summit resolutions. Those resolutions highlighted the need to adhere to both the Arab League Charter and the Collective Arab Defense Pact. They also provided for solidarity with Iraq in confronting Iranian aggression. Moreover, those resolutions were signed by all the Arab delegates who took part in the summit, and were received with satisfaction by Arab governments and peoples. They have also drawn a positive response internationally.

Thus, we say that these moves and contacts not only fail to serve Arab solidarity, but actually hurt it directly. Likewise, they do not enhance the Amman summit resolutions, they violate them. After all, in principle, they run counter to all pan-Arab values and notions. Those who make these moves and contacts can continue them, as long as they want to break the Amman summit resolutions and undermine the atmosphere that meeting produced. However, we should note that the regime of charlatans in Tehran has committed crimes and acts of depravity that cannot be expunged or hidden by any veil. We should also highlight the fact that Arab governments and peoples have accurately preceived the truth about

that regime and have taken their position toward it. That stand will not change unless either the regime itself or its policy does. Nothing and no one can hurt Iraq's steadfastness, strength, and ability to crush the Khomeyniite aggressors, for after all, only right will be right.

Writer Examines 'Foot-Dragging' on Sanctions
JN291716 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 27 Jan 88 pp 1, 11

[Article by Fu'ad Matar: "Launching Acts of Aggression by Exploiting Attitudes of Friends"]

[Text] One more battle will not hurt Iraq in the slightest. Given Iraq's steadfastness over all these years in fighting Iranian arrogance, which is cause for amazement, and in light of its unprecedented unity, which is cause for admiration, another desperate attempt by the Iranian regime will not shake Iraq.

However, President Saddam Husayn's leadership continues to believe that Resolution 598 must be implemented in full, as that will rob the Iranian regime of its latest weapon with which to continue its aggression against Iraq.

At this point, we must pause before that new weapon. We only want to say a little about the current situation, which deserves a great deal of attention. We want to say that the Iranian regime is continuing its aggression by relying on others. It has kept the war going by exploiting the hesitation of others to implement all provisions of Resolution 598. It is continuing the war, using an Arab umbrella to shield itself from the rain that could become a devastating flood. Thus, thanks to this hesitation, the Iranian regime is gaining time, which helps it prepare for a new adventure. In Iran's opinion, its significance lies in the fact that it should take place at all. The Iranian regime is fighting with a weapon supplied by certain parties; that is, their failure to take account of some objective facts. It is a prominent trait of the Iranian regime to ignore objective facts. However, such behavior by others is cause for pain, as some of the hesitant are friends, and the party carrying the umbrella for the Iranian regime is an Arab brother; that is, the Syrian regime. Then there are those who are quite tolerant. This group includes those Arab brothers who believe the question is one of dialogue.

It would be fair to say that the friendly international party that drags its feet, the fraternal Arab party that carries the umbrella, and those who are convinced that the question is one of dialogue, all encourage the war to continue as part of the movement to find a settlement. Those parties are giving the Iranian regime the weapons it needs to continue its aggression.

A completely different situation would have prevailed had these parties made Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 one of their conditions. After all, that resolution might not achieve peace, but it will open the door for a serious attempt at dialogue, which can be considered the only logical option.

The prevailing feeling among observers of current developments is that our international friends, on whose support we count, have added fuel to the fire with their foot-dragging. They also believe that the brother carrying the Arab umbrella wants the war to continue, and that the party which turns the other way and considers the issue one of dialogue does not take account of the fact that dialogue is useless when one of the parties holds a knife and the other a rose.

It is strange to see that this new weapon has been given as a gift to the Iranian regime by our foreign friends, by a fraternal Arab party, and by those who look the other way. This comes at a time when the world cannot tolerate that regime and its actions, and when the weapon of mobilization, about which that regime boasts, is no longer effective.

This gift makes us wonder: Did Resolution 598 lack a paragraph stipulating that sanctions would be imposed not only on the party—the Iranian regime in this case—that fails to accept and implement the resolution, but also on those who do not honor a resolution they had agreed to before it was issued? Does the foot-dragging of the friendly international party in imposing sanctions not mean that its policy is virtually one of rejection? The following question remains: As we are in the age of uprisings, has this party failed to take account of an uprising against itself, provoked by this stand, a rebellion launched out of bitterness using as its instrument words that will have the impact of stones?

Communique No 3,006 Issued on Combat With Iran
JN011744 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,006 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 1 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces, Iraq's fortified wall and defender of our dear homeland, affirm with their heroic deeds their overwhelming superiority over our enemies, the Zionist Khomeyniites, inflicting additional losses on them at all times. The following are the results of the activities conducted by our Armed Forces last night and today:

1. Units from our brave forces in the I Army Corps northern sector used artillery, mortars, and other weapons to deal effective blows to the scoundrels' troop concentrations, positions, and vehicles. Some 47 enemy

soldiers were killed, and a number of others were wounded. They also destroyed 5 assorted vehicles and a 106-mm gun, and demolished 13 ammunition dumps.

2. Two enemy soldiers were killed, and a machinegun, an observation post, five infantry positions, and two weapons emplacements were destroyed in the Special I Army Corps sector, held by the Allahu Akbar Forces.

3. Two weapons emplacements, an observation post, and an infantry position were destroyed, and a scoundrel was killed in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. Two enemy soldiers were killed and a large vehicle was destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

5. One of our units in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris pounded several sources of enemy fire, destroying four 81-mm mortars and killing their crews. Five infantry positions and an observation post were destroyed elsewhere in the same sector.

6. Three ammunition dumps were blown up and a single-barrelled machinegun and a personnel shelter were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

7. The enemy sent eight boats in a futile attempt to approach the port of Al-'Amiq. The brave men deployed there used various weapons to engage the enemy, and forced the vessels to flee toward the Iranian coast.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 1 February 1988

France's Chirac Sends Message to Peres on Unrest
TA011455 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] The grave incidents in the territories accentuate the urgent need to hold negotiations on the future of the Palestinian people. This was stated by French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac in a message to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Chirac expressed the hope that progress will be made in the coming year on the matter of convening an international conference with the participation of the five superpowers. France is prepared to increase its efforts for the renewal of the peace process momentum in the Middle East.

Portugal Appoints 'Non-Resident' Ambassador
TA011737 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Feb 88 p 3

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] At a time when the wave of international criticism that is hitting Israel in connection with events in the territories is at its peak, Portugal has decided to appoint an ambassador to Israel. In recent days, Lisbon contacted Israel requesting that the appointment of current Portuguese Ambassador to Rome Rui de Medina as non-resident ambassador to Israel be approved. The Portuguese promised to appoint a resident ambassador within 1 year. The ambassador will be based in Tel Aviv.

Officials in Jerusalem welcomed Portugal's decision, which they explained as the result of pressures exerted on it since it became a member of the European Community, to take action toward normalizing its relations with Israel. It was in a similar manner that Spain established full diplomatic relations with Israel over 2 years ago. It is assumed that these countries will soon be followed by Greece, which is about to assume the presidency of the EEC Council of Ministers.

Ireland Shuns Official Diplomatic Representation
TA310743 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Jan 88 p 2

[Report by David Horowitz]

[Text] London—The Irish Government, worried by the unrest in the territories, has backed away from permitting Israel official diplomatic representation in the republic, according to well-placed Israeli sources.

Indications were that Israel would be granted some form of official representation early this year, THE JERUSALEM POST has learned. "But the Irish Government is now much more cautious, and it is no longer talking about allowing an embassy or even a low-level Israeli Government office to be opened in Dublin," the sources said yesterday.

With the prospects of an embassy now receding, officials are instead trying to promote Israel through the Ireland-Israel Chamber of Commerce. The Dublin-based chamber has been operating for five years, but it will have an "official opening" next week by Lord Sieff, the president of Marks and Spencer, and the Irish trade minister.

Total trade between Israel and Ireland has increased from $18 million to $50m in the past three years, and it is possible that this figure could double in the next three years.

Israel has long been willing to improve bilateral relations with the opening of an embassy. But the Irish had been reluctant, the sources pointed out, because of their $5 billion annual trade commitment with the Arab states.

West Europe To Transfer Funds to Refugee Camps
TA311158 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 31 Jan 88 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Western Europe will invest tens of millions of dollars in the refugee camps which it will transfer through UNRWA. Our correspondent has learned that the West Germany has already transferred over a half million dollars to UNRWA and Italy has promised to soon transfer some $10 million. UNRWA has broached this subject with Israel and the latter said it had no objections. The Civilian Administration will also be allocated a budget of $8 million to build an infrastructure in the territories.

Romania's Totu, Sharon Discuss Bilateral Trade
TA311447 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 31 Jan 88 p A1

[Text] Israel and Romania will take action to enhance reciprocal trade relations. The decision was made by the Romanian Foreign Minister Ioan Totu and Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon in a meeting in Jerusalem.

Minister Sharon called on his guest to work for increased purchasing of Israeli goods and for industrial cooperation in other countries.

Israeli exports to Romania in 1987 amounted to only $6.7 million, while imports from that country (comprising mainly raw materials) reached $30.5 million.

The Romanian foreign minister pointed out that despite the policy of cuts applied by his government over the last few years, the Romanian Government has now entered a new era of expanded international trade relations, including increased imports.

Aid to Philippines To Fight Communists Denied

TA011033 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Israel denies that it has aided the Philippines Government in fighting communist rebels. A spokesman for the Israeli Embassy in Manila said these reports were baseless. They were issued several days ago by a rebel spokesman, who added that the intelligence services of Australia, the United States, and Britain help the special government units in the war against the rebels.

Jordan Posing Difficulties for Minor Pilgrimage

TA311538 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Only 30 of the more than 1,200 Muslims who registered to carry out the minor pilgrimage called 'Umra will leave for Mecca in a month. According to our correspondent Yo'el Dar, it turns out that Jordan is making passage through its territory difficult. It has raised the price of the ticket to $200, three times as much as the original rate. Also, the duration of the stay by Israeli Muslims in Jordan and Saudi Arabia has been shortened, and they are being required to leave by groups at different dates. Dr Nisim Dana, director of the communities department in the Religious Affairs Ministry, believes that Jordan's motives are political.

Lebanese Shi'ites Apply for Work Despite Call

TA301328 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Shi'ite workers from the security zone in Lebanon are ignoring the call issued by Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, Lebanese vice chairman of the Supreme Shi'ite Islamic Council, not to work in Israel in the place of workers from the territories.

Our correspondent Yo'el Dar has learned from the Government Employment Service that more requests for work permits from Shi'ites have recently been made. Not all the requests are being granted.

At present there are 1,250 workers from Lebanon employed in Israel. Some 250 more are to be hired.

Leaders Comment on Autonomy Plan for Territories

Sharon on 'Original' Plan

TA010554 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Trade and Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon says Israel should not deviate from the original autonomy plan. Speaking at a meeting of the Herut Central Committee in Rishon Le Ziyyon, Sharon also called for increased Jewish settlement. He said this would give Israel the necessary security in order to begin autonomy talks. Sharon said Prime Minister Shamir waited too long to prevent what he termed the great danger placed before Israel by Foreign Minister Peres.

Further on Sharon View

TA011847 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon says that the autonomy plan can be applied only in its Israeli conception, which stipulates that Israel maintain a security presence in the territories forever, rather than for an interim period. He adds that no changes should be made in the autonomy plan, since any such change will lead to a situation in which control over security in the territories would slip from our hands. We must not agree to a Jordanian army, police force, or official. Security in the territories must continue to be maintained by the local police, the Israel police, and the IDF. Minister Sharon made these remarks during a tour of the Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip.

Shamir 'Version' Reviewed

TA011338 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Feb 88 p 8

[Editorial: "Shamir's New Course"]

[Text] On the face of it, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's latest statements, made in both Hebrew and English, on national policy regarding the territories amount to a quantum jump away from established Herut/Likud doctrine.

At the core of that doctrine has been the total commitment to the 1978 Camp David autonomy agreement. The agreement was represented as the means best calculated to assure that Judaea, Samaria and Gaza remained Israel's forever. In other words, it was the finest instrument for securing international legitimation for permanent establishment of the 1967 borders.

In an effort to fit the actual text of the agreement into the procrustean bed of the doctrine, it was surgically deformed and then even found its way into the policy guidelines of Likud-led governments.

The autonomy as a 5-year transition arrangement leading to negotiated agreement on the final status of the territories, was turned into a prelude to its perpetuation under Israel's political control. Short shrift was made of the very requirement of negotiations, which were due to begin not later than the third year of the autonomy and to end at the end of the fifth year. As the then Herut premier, Menahem Begin, a signatory to the agreement, saw it, at the end of the transition period, Israel would simply raise its claim to, and implement its right of soveignty over, the territories. Even if the claim of sovereignty were then to be denied de jure recognition, it would have de facto validity.

A similar kind of facelift was done on the transition arrangement itself. The agreement provided for a self-governing authority made up of elected Palestinian representatives, with defence still being handled by the IDF following its redeployment in specified security locations, but with active Jordanian participation. In Herut's political mind, collective amnesia has enveloped such provisions during the past decade. No wonder Ari'el Sharon was scandalized by the mere suggestion, a few weeks ago, that Jordanian soldiers might cross the Jordan while the autonomy was in force.

Yet it was this mangled version of the Camp David autonomy which made it palatable even to its erstwhile Herut opponents, such as Mr. Shamir.

Now comes Mr. Shamir to revise, as it were, his own favourite revision of the Camp David text, so that it can serve as a basis for talks. In return for George Shultz's virtual freeze on the international conference idea, Mr. Shamir appears willing to accept the original Camp David text as it is, warts and all, complete with joint Israeli-Jordanian army patrols, and even to negotiate such changes in the text as the Arab parties may propose.

He acknowledges in effect that the agreement provides for a transition not a permanent arrangement, and, if unofficial reports are to be credited, he is also prepared to have the five autonomy years reduced to four, if not three, with talks on final status beginning almost as soon as the autonomy is inaugurated.

Some of Mr. Shamir's present ideas are still a trifle bizarre. He believes, for example, that the self-governing authority, which in fact is itself supposed to be elective, should arrange for the election of Palestinian representatives. But these are trifles, indeed, compared with the complete rejection by the Herut diehards of any notion of anything like free elections by the Palestinians in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. Such elections, they say, if actually held, will put the PLO in charge of the autonomy, and will lay the cornerstone of a Palestinian state. The diehards may be right, too.

The prime minister may thus be facing not merely a challenge but a revolt inside Herut. He had no authority to sell greater Israel for a mess of American pottage, his critics, headed by Mr. Sharon, will insist. Mr. Shamir may yet protest, as he has done before, that his apparent softening has been merely semantic, cosmetic, tactical or what have you, in a good cause, and no more. But it will not be easy to make the case for his defence against his own colleagues.

Mr. Shamir has indeed been hoisted by his own petard.

Levi on Settlement Plans

TA011706 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] David Levi, deputy prime minister and minister of construction and housing, says that the declarations made by President Mubarak and by Secretary of State Shultz to the effect that settlement in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip has been halted, do not hold water. Minister Levi states that his ministry is currently taking vigorous action to construct thousands of housing units in the territories, and is planning new settlements. He has even instructed his staff to advance enterprises scheduled for a later date, so as to prevent any doubts as to Israel's plans for the territories.

In an interview with our correspondent Hayim Hecht, Minister Levi said that he had expected that Prime Minister Shamir would unequivocally clarify his political stands in order to avoid confusion and a potentially perilous political situation. He felt relieved when the prime minister declared that he adheres to the autonomy idea as set down in the Camp David Accords. Any other idea, said David Levi, is nothing but a political trap.

Voices Concern With Shamir

TA011912 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi says that the ambiguous political position presented by Prime Minister Shamir caused political confusion and the creation of a situation fraught with danger for Israel. David Levi states that not only has Jewish settlement in the territories not stopped, but it is now being carried out at an accelerated pace. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht spoke with Minister Levi this afternoon.

[Begin recording] [Hecht] Yesterday Minister David Levi said: I heard certain things from the prime minister, while over the radio today I heard him say different things. The remarks Shamir made yesterday were a prescription for a political trap, the main point of which is the handover of Judaea and Samaria to Jordan's hands. Today, from a report citing the prime minister's confidants, I understand that the prime minister again insists on the autonomy plan as it was defined in Camp David.

[Levi] I would have expected Mr Shamir to say this not today, but the day before yesterday, and in an unambiguous manner. Thus, uncertainties as well as very dangerous speculations would have been prevented. It is never too late to clarify things though. If he indeed thinks as he expressed himself today—and I would like to believe this is the case. He is the Likud leader, after all—if there were a mishap or faulty communications here, I am glad it has been corrected.

[Hecht] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, at the end of his meeting with the secretary of state in Washington, said that practically speaking Israel has stopped settlements in the territories. This is correct neither in theory nor in practice, David Levi states. No news conference in Washington, Cairo, or Tel Aviv will stop the settlement momentum.

[Levi] I do not view any declaration as dictating to Israel on the matter of settlements in Judaea and Samaria. I, together with my ministry, am active, more intensively today, with regard to those actions which have been planned. I am also working to execute these plans even earlier so as to preclude any misunderstanding or questioning. Both planning and implementation of a project of hundreds of housing units in Avne Hefez is continuing. Planning and implementation of a project of thousands of housing units in the town of Betar also continues. In the new settlement of Neta' hundreds of housing units are planned. Today we are engaged in expanding the existing settlement in a more intensive manner than ever. [end recording]

Rabin Remarks on Policy, Events in Territories

'Policy of Force' To Continue

TA011250 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Hayim Zissowitz on 1 February in the Knesset—recorded]

[Text] [Rabin] There has been an intensification in the disturbances. It began yesterday in Nabulus, which was placed under curfew last night. All those who caused yesterday's disturbances in Nabulus will be dealt with, arrested, and interrogated. We will make an all-out effort to restore order in Nabulus. Meanwhile there have also been other events, including a serious incident in 'Anabta where there are wounded among the local inhabitants.

I reiterate: It must be clear to the residents of the territories that we will continue with the policy aimed at restoring calm, even if this calls for prolonged activity. We will exercise a policy of force in order to prevent acts of violence. We will continue to arrest those who engage in violent activities and those who organize and incite them. We will use curfews to prevent violent demonstrations.

At the same time, we will enable those who want to leave for work to do so, and we will defend those who want to keep their shops open. The main goal is to achieve calm by taking steps against those who participate in and stir up acts of violence such as demonstrations, roadblocks, tire burnings, stone throwing, and hurling of bottles. A lot of Molotov cocktails have been thrown. Most did not do any harm, but to our regret one did and the damage was grave. I wish the Bet El resident who was wounded yesterday a quick recovery.

[Zissowitz] Do these incidents call for further reactions by the security forces in order to guarantee the safety of the Jewish settlers?

[Rabin] We are dealing with this through our actions against violence, its perpetrators, organizers, and those who incite it, while making sure—as much as possible—that the roads are open to the free flow of traffic by Jewish and Arab residents.

[Zissowitz] Mr Defense Minister, you have been criticized by Tehiya circles and by Gush Emunim because you banned them from planting trees on Arbor Day. Why did you do this?

[Rabin] Arbor Day is the tree-planting festival, and it is the practice in Israel to plant trees. There is no ban on tree-planting ceremonies in all the settlements. What I banned is turning Arbor Day into a day of marches and demonstrations around Nabulus. Everything else linked to tree-planting ceremonies in all the settlements, on their lands, is not banned.

[Zissowitz] In conclusion, I would like to deal with the political moves. Could the arrival of the U.S. mediator and the talk of a political initiative allay the tension to some extent?

[Rabin] I hope that there will be some movement, but I will not forecast what the effect will be in the field.

Examines Violent Resistance

TA011446 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that the situation in the territories is one of a struggle to determine who will tire first. In Rabin's remarks he says that we have it in us not to tire first. Speaking to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the defense minister said we are facing a violent resistance by components in the Arab population who are supported by most of the population. According to Rabin, the Army has been all right on the whole, although some soldiers on the periphery did give vent to their instincts.

Reviews Results of Policy

TA011842 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by correspondent Eli Nisan in the Knesset on 1 February—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Rabin] In my opinion, the policy, as it has been implemented over the last 3 weeks, has resulted in much more calm in the Gaza Strip in comparison with the previous situation there. In Judaea and Samaria too, this policy has resulted in more calm.

Over the last 3 days, especially yesterday and today, we have witnessed violent disturbances in Nabulus. Nabulus has been subject to a curfew since the early hours of this morning, and we will take care that demonstrations and violent phenomena do not take place there.

There have been several additional phenomena of violent disturbances today. The worst occurred in 'Anabta where there were casualties among the local residents.

Let me make it clear again to the Palestinian residents in the territories that we are determined, even if this requires prolonged action, to act with power and force, with curfews and detentions, against every demonstration and violent phenomenon, against those who incite them, organize them, or participate in them.

[Nisan] In view of the criticism leveled at this policy which was adopted in the territories, do you intend to change it?

[Rabin] No, this policy is the policy of the government, my policy as the defense minister, and the IDF, the Border Police and the other security branches will continue to implement it.

[Nisan] In view of the intentions, the attempts, to begin political negotiations in the region, do you believe that the beginning of these negotiations will bring about a calm in the territories?

[Rabin] I take a very positive view of initiatives to reach political talks. The Israeli-Arab conflict, including the Palestinian problem, will not be resolved by force or violence but only by negotiations. I am hopeful that these initiatives will lead to negotiations which are the only way to resolve the conflict.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1800 GMT on 1 February further reports that Rabin earlier accused the world media of exaggeration in reports of excessive force being used by the IDF in handling demonstrators. "He was particularly incensed by a report of skulls being cracked. Show me one case like that, Rabin said. By and large the army behaves properly, Rabin said. We cannot rely only on TV footage and the statements of the Palestinians, but every report against the soldiers is being investigated."]

Unrest To Continue For 'Months'

TA020841 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Feb 88 p 1

[Report by Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpt] Defence Minister Rabin offered little hope to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee yesterday that the unrest in the territories might be over soon.

Talking in terms of "months to come," Rabin said "a majority of the Arab population sympathizes with the policy of violent confrontation, and feels that the national aspirations of the Palestinian Arabs are advanced in world opinion by the sight of unarmed civilians facing armed soldiers. They feel they have achieved something."

The defence minister said Israel had no choice but to prevent the situation from getting out of hand, and to plan for the coming months with a combination of "perseverance, patience, and the conviction that we are in the right."

The atmosphere in the committee was much calmer than in previous weeks, and the controversy over the policy of beating rioters did not come up. There were no angry exchanges or bitter reproaches. [passage omitted]

Rabin, Mitzna' Meet West Bank Jewish Settlers

TA011600 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] The heads of the Jewish councils in Judaea and Samaria this afternoon conferred with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. They warned that if attacks against the Jewish settlers in the territories continue, their ability to maintain quiet among the settlers will be eroded. The heads of the councils made it clear that their relations with the army have so far been very good.

Major General 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, also participated in the meeting. He said that good relations between soldiers in the territories and the settlers stems from the fact that the settlers exercise restraint, but this may change if the settlers take the law into their own hands.

Minister Rabin said in the meeting that he views the establishment of order in the territories as the primary task of the army and is giving the IDF all the necessary support. At the same time he noted that the Arabs have learned that they can promote their interests through confrontations between them and the army.

Our correspondent Avshalom Ginosar reports that the heads of the councils also raised the matter of the ban imposed by the defense minister on the rally which Gush Emunim wanted to hold on Arbor Day. Minister Rabin repeated his position that he will allow only tree planting ceremonies, and not a political demonstration.

Further on Incidents, Policy in Territories

Limited Arbor Day Rally

TA012000 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1930 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] The defense minister this evening allowed Gush Emunim to carry out tree-planting ceremonies in 11 settlements in the territories and a limited-scale rally in Elon More. This is reported by our correspondent Menahem Hadar.

Reunification Permits Increased

TA281453 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has instructed the Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria to increase the number of family reunification permits in Judaea and Samaria.

In a meeting this morning in his office in Tel Aviv, Rabin instructed Brigadier General Yehoshu'a Erez, head of the Civilian Administration, to do everything possible to solve the problems involved in reunification of the families. Our correspondent Zohar Melamed reports that this involves a very large number of permits.

The spokesman for the Civilian Administration announced today that in view of the possibility that businessmen will try to increase prices because of the commercial strike, he ordered the Civilian Administration to tighten price controls and prevent anybody from taking advantage of the strike to push up prices.

Arab Workers 'Apprehensive'

TA021128 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 2 Feb 88 p 4

[Text] Arabs in the territories who work for the Civilian Administration and as policemen will soon get a salary raise to encourage them to continue to work for the Israelis despite the threats against them broadcast by the Palestinian radio. The Arab workers are paid less than Israelis at the same grade, and an effort will now be made to make their salaries equivalent.

It has been learned that many Arab workers are apprehensive about Palestinian radio broadcasts that have been giving their names and addresses and calling on the residents of the territories to harass them.

'Terrorist Squads' Uncovered

TA011717 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] The IDF spokesman announces that in recent days the security forces have uncovered several terrorist squads from the Gaza Strip which are suspected of having perpetrated acts in Qiryat Mal'akhi, Rehovot, and Gaza.

The members of one of the squads, from the Jabalyah refugee camp, are suspected of having planted two bombs under vehicles in Qiryat Mal'akhi about 1 year ago, as well as another bomb under a container in Rehovot about 9 months ago. They also activated a roadside bomb against an IDF patrol.

Another squad is suspected of having planted a roadside bomb against an IDF patrol in the Gaza Strip last December, and another two squads are suspected of having set buses on fire.

In the course of uncovering the squads, their members turned in more than 10 bombs which were ready for use, as well as dozens of kilograms of home-made explosives with which they had planned to carry out various terrorist acts. The investigation of the security forces is continuing.

Palestinian Institutions Closed

TA311229 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 31 Jan p 3

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Israel will soon initiate the closing of Palestinian nationalistic institutions in East Jerusalem. It has been learned that a decision regarding this matter has been made as part of the policy to locate "instigators." Another aspect is the opinion in Israel that the Palestinian institutions have helped damage Israel's image abroad through assistance to foreign correspondents.

The execution of this decision may put to the test the relations between Israel and Egypt, the institutions being in general on good terms with the latter. One of Cairo's reasons for the decision not to send Ambassador Basyuni back to Israel [as published] was the need to maintain the link with these institutions.

It may be assumed that this move will also harm U.S.-Israeli relations, particularly in light of Secretary Shultz's intervention towards canceling all restrictions on Hanna Sinyurah.

W. Bank Christians Join Unrest

TA011303 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Feb 88 p 2

[Report by Yitzhaq Ravyihya and Roni Shaqed]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A new development was evident yesterday concerning Christian communities in the West Bank: They heeded the calls of the United National Command of the Uprising, and at the end of Sunday mass they staged marches which soon turned into violent demonstrations. The most serious incident occurred in the town of Bayt Sahur, where youths ran amok and destroyed the local police station.

Riots also occurred in Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and Ramallah after Sunday mass. Palestinian figures welcomed the participation of the Christians in the riots, saying this proves that the Palestinian uprising stems from secular nationalist motives and not from religious motives, as Israelis are trying to describe it, and noting that this bolsters the PLO's position. [passage omitted]

14 Arabs, 5 Soldiers Wounded

TA012020 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] A curfew was imposed today on Nabulus and the refugee camps around it, as well as on the villages of 'Anabta and Bani Na'im and the Al-Jalazun refugee camp. The curfew will continue tonight.

Two Arab residents were killed in 'Anabta in the course of disturbances which occurred there today. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of the incident. Fourteen Arabs were wounded in additional incidents. Most of the wounds were slight. Half of them were wounded by IDF soldiers' firing, and the others by the firing of rubber bullets and by clubs. Five IDF soldiers were injured in the course of the disturbances.

Our correspondent 'Ofer Bardugo reports that no classes will be held in schools throughout the Samaria district. Classes will proceed normally in the Judaea and Binyamin districts.

Military Closes Schools 2 Feb

TA012117 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] The military authorities shut down schools in the Samaria region due to the riots. The Hebron and Bethlehem universities as well as the Polytechnic College in Hebron will also be closed down for 1 day tomorrow, since students in these three institutes participated in today's riots. Our correspondent notes that the Hebron university opened today after being closed for a few months.

The curfew in Nabulus will continue but residents will be able to stock up on food.

Arabs Send Food, Clothing

TA301444 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Over the last 3 days, the residents of the territories have received another 10 truckloads of food and clothing collected in Arab settlements in the Galilee and the Triangle. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that part of the consignments was delivered to the residents, while the rest was handed over to UNRWA. A campaign to collect funds for the territories is continuing, and our correspondent has learned that several hundred thousands of shekels have been collected so far.

Palestinians Using 'Blackmail' To Achieve Goals

TA291405 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Jan 88 p B10

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "Bargaining Through Blackmail"—passages in boldface as published]

[Text] Hanna Sinyurah sat in the Knesset visitors gallery carefully following the debate on the law banning contacts with the PLO. After the debate he went down to the cafeteria and smiled a lot at the Knesset members as he usually does, but to no avail: the law was passed. When he visited the U.S. secretary of state this week he raised the demand to cancel the Knesset law banning contacts with the PLO. This was one of the 14 demands he had presented to Israel.

Sinyurah came to Washington at the invitation of George Shultz, who wanted to hear the Palestinian position from him. Shultz asked Yitzhaq Shamir to permit Sinyurah to go to Washington, and at the same time he called on Shamir to send an emissary to explain the Israeli Government's stand on the issue of relations with the Palestinians.

Whether deliberately or not, the U.S. secretary of state held a type of "proximity talks" between the prime minister's designated emissary and two tacit messengers of the PLO leader.

In two memoranda of understanding with Israel, Washington has pledged not to negotiate with the PLO as long as that organization does not renounce violence and does not commit itself to respect Israel's right to exist in peace.

There is also a U.S. Congressional resolution on this subject. The administration cannot violate its pledge and the law. That is why it chose to talk with two Palestinian representatives whom Israel has agreed to include in a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in negotiations. Israel did not disqualify these two candidates, proposed by 'Arafat prior to the cancellation of the political coordination agreement between Jordan and the PLO, as it did others.

It is for that reason that the U.S. Administration also views them as being qualified to participate in "proximity talks," which it held this week to investigate the possibilities of restoring calm and creating an atmosphere enabling the start of negotiations. Via Shultz, the two Palestinians presented Israel with an ultimatum: Give in to violence, burning tires, stone throwing, and Molotov cocktails.

During the unrest in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, the terrorists tried to capture hostages as a bargaining chip with Israel. The two most prominent incidents occurred near Ma'oz Hayyim in the Jordan Valley, and near Manara on the northern border. Both ended in failure.

It was reported that the goal of the squad that infiltrated from Lebanon, and whose members were killed, was to capture Israeli hostages. What was not reported, however, was that this was also the mission of the gang that came from Iraq via Jordan. They were supposed to throw nails on the road to puncture the tires of an Israeli vehicle and to capture the driver while he was trying to change the tire. A taxi was waiting on the other side of the river to take the Israeli hostage the same night to a terrorist base in Iraq.

The blackmailing gangs can be uncovered, arrested, and even destroyed before the next stage when, according to the terrorists' plan, foreign ambassadors are meant to deliver the bargaining demands to Israel. The stone and firebomb throwers have their own "political agents"—not foreign ambassadors, but Palestinian ones. This week they presented Shultz with a list containing 14 conditions to end the unrest in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

This is blackmail with a nicer face, but no less dangerous. It is dangerous because it uses slogans like "Israel must adhere to the Geneva Conventions," or "The groundwork must be laid for municipal elections," which on the surface appear conciliatory, but conceal an ulterior goal, that of forcing Israel to clear the hurdles on the PLO's path to Washington.

Sinyurah is not a leader. He is a messenger, and as such he transmitted his masters' conditions for a halt to the riots. They demand a cancellation of deportation orders, the lifting the curfews on the refugee camps, the withdrawal of the IDF from population centers, and dropping the limitations on the passage of goods.

On the face of it, each of the demands can be acceptable to Israel, but when the list is headed by a demand to release all arrested Palestinians, it is virtually tantamount to a demand to recognize the right to riot and assure the rioters a priori that their actions will be rewarded. To leave no room for doubt that a political prize for rioters and terrorists is the real issue, Sinyurah's list also contains the following demands:

a. To investigate the behavior of IDF soldiers, and the settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

b. To put a stop to the settlement drive.

c. To cancel the ban on political activities by Palestinians.

d. To cancel the Israeli law banning contacts with the PLO.

Sinyurah does not go into detail about what would happen if Israel turns down the ultimatum he brought to Washington. His masters threatened to renew disorder if Israel does not yield. Israel is forced to reject the ultimatum out of hand, because if it enters negotiations on these demands it would be clearing the way for all-out blackmail.

The Washington talks took place before **the inaugural discussion** on all the political, economic, and security aspects of the Palestinian issue that began in the Inner Cabinet yesterday. The Inner Cabinet has so far discussed reactions to the disturbances. Yesterday's debate dealt with long-term policy, and it is a pity that this discussion came so late. It is possible that had it been held in time it would have prevented the public bickering between the two components of the government, which exposed Israel's weakness in the face of stones and Molotov cocktails.

It might be an illusion to think that **short-range** election considerations could be subject to in-depth **long-range** discussions. Nevertheless, a thorough study of the goals of the Arab onslaught would have presumably revived the government's opposition to the extortionate demand of extending indirect recognition of the PLO in exchange for an end to the disturbances. Husayn loves using the formula "peace or territories." Israel has now been presented with a new choice: stones or the release of all those arrested.

In fact, what the Arabs had in mind was to turn the conference into an international umbrella for their blackmail. They did not mean to sit tight during the conference. They wanted the conference to be the background to the riots they would stir up in order to increase the impact of their political demands.

The conference got bogged down not only because of Israel's opposition, but particularly because of U.S. considerations. That is why the Arabs jumped on the bandwagon of international television as an interim phase for the conference, to force Israel to agree to this framework which is supposed to grant its auspices to the "Revolution until victory," as the Fatah greeting goes.

'Arafat is willing to accept a temporary interval in the war of stones to prepare under better conditions for the next stage of the uprising, which is expected to accompany the international conference with harder conditions for Israel.

Sinyurah is merely a messenger conveying 'Arafat's demands. His role is to pave the way for an understanding with the Americans for the PLO chief. 'Arafat knows that the United States will not breach its commitment to Israel. He is therefore attempting to reach the same target by coercing Israel into a mutual agreement on halting the riots.

This condition was relayed to Reagan by President Mubarak, and again to Shultz by Sinyurah. The Cabinet cannot go on improvising replies under the sole dictum of not wishing to appear as always saying "no," as what the Arabs brought this week to Washington are actually "no to peace" proposals.

The July 1981 indirect agreement between Israel and the PLO for a cease-fire along the northern border, which is now presented as an example, was a bad agreement. As a matter of fact, it was this agreement that pushed Israel into the Lebanon war. The hundreds of artillery pieces aimed at the Galilee despite the cease-fire drove Israel, which was unable to accept the fact that the Galilee was being used as a hostage zone in the hands of the PLO, to war.

An indirect agreement with the PLO on calm in the territories will only increase the latter's bargaining power and endanger peace in the area. It is therefore advisable to watch out for snares and not to be lured by short-term proposals without first considering their long-term consequences.

Dudin Calls U.S. Initiative 'Unacceptable'

JN011318 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Tel Aviv radio has reported that Prime Minister Shamir's government used its weekly meeting yesterday to discuss the major outlines of the recent U.S. initiative to bring calm to the occupied Arab territories and peace to the Middle East.

Following this report, Marwan Dudin, Jordan's minister of occupied territories, announced today that the American initiative is unacceptable, and falls short of Palestinian aspirations and the Arab consensus. Dudin said that in light of the uprising, there were expectations of something different. He recalled that the Arab states support an international conference on peace in the Middle East, attended by all the parties concerned, especially the PLO. The Jordanian minister added that the uprising has confirmed to the public that it will be impossible for Israel to have land and peace at the same time.

Further Report

JN020704 Amman Domestic Service in English 0545 GMT 2 Feb 88

[From the "News Reports" program]

[Text] Occupied Territories Minister Marwan Dudin said the U.S. proposal, as reported in news media, fell short of Arab demands for a UN-sponsored international peace conference. He told REUTER: I have seen nothing in writing, but if we take the report seriously, it doesn't compare well with the Arab consensus.

Israeli Cabinet sources said on Sunday Washington had put new proposals for Palestinian self-rule to Israel and Jordan in a bid to break the deadlock on the future of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

President Ronald Reagan sent veteran envoy Philip Habib to Amman on Saturday with a message for King Husayn about the occupied territories. No details of their talks have emerged. The Israeli sources said the plan involved limited self-rule for the West Bank and Gaza, with talks on the territories' final status to start within a year between Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and Palestinian representatives.

Dudin said the Arab position calling for an international forum was expressed at the Amman summit in November. The reported U.S. idea met none of the Arab points and doesn't seem to move in a direction closer to ours, the minister said.

Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah said Jordan welcomed any real and serious movement aimed at solving the Palestinian problem, as well as any move to hold an international conference. That's why the king received Mr Habib personally, the minister said.

The king, now in Italy at the start of a European tour, has criticized Washington's reluctance to throw its weight behind an international conference under UN auspices. He told THE WASHINGTON POST last week the United States was influenced by Israeli extremists, people who cannot see beyond tomorrow or the day after, let alone years from now, his majesty said. Jordan, like Egypt, wants the five permanent UN Security Council members to supervise a conference to negotiate a land for peace exchange and deal with the Palestinian issue.

Paper Views 'Smearing' Campaign in U.S.

JN010922 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Feb 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Zionist Wheels in Motion"]

[Text] The Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza also appears to have given rise to a systematic anti-Jordanian campaign in the United States aimed at distorting the Kingdom's image. The motivations behind the drive, which shows all hallmarks of hardcore Zionism, are not difficult to guess; they seek to put Jordan in as unfavorable a light as possible, so that the Jordanian call for a just and durable settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and Palestinian problem is blurred and the focus is shifted to what is described as Jordan's "unreasonable demands." Some Zionist leaders are feeding the information media with allegations that Jordan's rejection of direct talks with Israel drove the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza to take things into their own hands; hence, the ongoing revolt in the occupied territories. Much more surprising is the way respected American newspapers have joined the bandwagon, leading the smearing campaign.

Notwithstanding the liberal use of empty words of "sympathy" for the Palestinian people, it is clear that Zionist circles in the U.S. find it a golden opportunity to throw mud at Jordan, accusing it of adopting a "negative" attitude towards peace efforts, and portrary Israel as the ultimate peace-loving nation. For them, the Jordanian rejection of the American proposal for a direct meeting with Israel during last December's superpower summit was a total rejection of peace talks; thus, they see Jordan as bearing a great responsibility for what is happening in the occupied territories. They try to entice Jordan into an elaborate political trap, and then they cry foul when we refuse to take the bait.

Still, the international community and intelligent and reasonable Americans know that the kind of peace the Zionists are trying to propagate is nothing but an eyewash, and that Jordan was not deviating an inch from its principled stand when it rejected the offer to meet with Israel in Washington.

We suspect, though, that the masterminds behind the ongoing anti-Jordanian drive have not wasted their energies. In their zealous drive, they appear to have gone out of their way, albeit accurately and unintentionally, to

convey the message of the Palestinian plight to the American public and underline the urgent need for a Middle East settlement. After all, the effort was not totally wasted. We can only give them a piece of advice: All those "missed opportunities for peace" that you are talking about could never have brought peace to the Middle East, and were just the recipes for further turmoil and instability in the region. Jordan was wise to have sensed the trap from the beginning, and you would now be better off focusing on what Israel, happy to continue the status quo, has been doing to wreck all hopes for peace.

U.S. Middle East Policy Termed 'Extremist'

JN301219 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
30 Jan 88 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "American Cover for Israeli Policy"]

[Text] Every speaker at the Security Council has agreed that Israel must fulfill its responsibilities as an occupation force in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They all insist on a halt to the iron fist policy implemented against the Arabs, and support action for an international conference. Meanwhile, the United States takes positions that can only be seen as a cover for Israel's oppressive practices, and as a form of encouragement for Rabin's big stick policy and Shamir's continuous "No's."

Thus, the efforts of the Security Council can all be for naught, and the secretary general's report can produce nothing while the United States refuses to allow the passage of a strong international resolution that would curb Israel's brutal policy against Arab citizens. That makes this superpower an enemy of the Arabs and Palestinians, for it declares, in the person of its secretary of state, that it will not permit Israel to be condemned or blamed at the Security Council. At the same time, this superpower prevents any step toward a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Certain Israelis, including some within Shamir's government itself, have called for a halt to the big stick policy and for political solutions to the explosive crisis. As this goes on, every American spokesmen and government official, through his positions and statements, prevents the broadening or spread of these peaceful trends within Israel. After all, the United States is blindly biased in favor of Shamir's programs, and extravagant in its support of Likud's racist and expansionist policies.

We, therefore, call on all Arab states to examine the results this American policy may have on regional peace, and to discuss the serious dangers posed by the Reagan administration's adoption of Israel's most extreme stands. The Arabs must learn the proper lessons, as they are now waging a diplomatic struggle in the Security Council.

We feel that the United States is making a most serious mistake in the Middle East by turning a blind eye to Israel's unbroken series of crimes against the most basic human rights in the occupied territories. While doing so, we ask the Arabs to consider their diplomatic battle as a fight against the United States and its extremist pro-Likud policy. As such, the Arabs have new responsibilities in this campaign. They must take stands and adopt policies to correct those in Washington who give no consideration to the Arabs or their aspirations and basic interests.

Paper Urges 'Independent' Arab Bloc in Israel

JN281309 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
28 Jan 88 p 1

[Article by Sabir al-Qabbai: "Consolidating the Arab Identity"]

[Text] The resignation of 'Abd al-Wahhab Darawshah from the Israeli Labor Party in protest over the "big stick" policy pursued by his party colleague, Yitzhaq Rabin, the so-called defense minister, could mark the start of a split between Jews and Arabs in the Israeli entity.

The resignation, which has been one of the positive results of the popular uprising, might pave the way for a new sort of political behavior or struggle by the Arabs of occupied Palestine. The hallmarks of that fight should be courage, publicity, and a frank trend toward Arab nationalism.

We all know that the Zionist enemy has used every tactic of suppression, intrigue, and sedition within its power to prevent the consolidation of any sense of national identity among the Arab minority in the territories occupied since 1948. We also know how the enemy has liquidated the Land Movement, the sons of the Land Grouping, and every other Arab organization that has attempted to make a place for itself within the Israeli entity in the past few years on the basis of an Arab national struggle or purely patriotic principles.

With its terrorist mentality, the racist enemy has blocked every effort by the Arab minority to express its national identity through the formation of an independent party. Thus, the Arabs were forced into Israeli political parties and blocs, starting with the Likud on the extreme right and RAKAH on the extreme left, and going on to include the Labor Party, MAPAM, the Progressive List, and so on.

But that is old history now. Today we have Darawashah, who has apparently learned two important yet contradictory lessons; the first from Rabin and the second from the masses of Nazareth, the Triangle, and Galilee. Darawashah announced his resignation from the Labor Party at a public rally in Nazareth, and revealed his plans to form an Arab party based on the Arab identity, and not on the political programs of Israeli parties.

Rabin's lesson taught Darawshah and others that the conflict within the Israeli entity is a crucial national contest between Arabs and Jews. It is not a political, social, or class struggle that can be solved within the Israeli parties, which are predominantly Jewish and determined to promote Zionist superiority and perpetuate the Israeli entity behind a democratic facade.

The lesson taught by the Arabs of the Palestinian interior is this: Despite having spent 40 years under Israeli sovereignty, they have not forgotten their Arab roots, abandoned their Arab national identity, surrendered to the status quo, or lost hope in a future of liberty in a free homeland. As soon as they got the chance, they bravely expressed their national feelings and rushed to the support of their brothers, who had risen up in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They offered their assistance in a way that commands respect and admiration, and in a manner that truly heralds victory.

Rabin's oppressive and terrorist actions in the occupied territories have proved to Darawshah that the Labor Party's notion of "collegiality" was a big lie. After all, there is a great gap between Rabin's objectives and Darawshah's aspirations. In addition, the anger of the Palestinian masses inside Israel, as well as their glorious support for their brothers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, have confirmed that blood is a thousand times stronger than party programs or the claims of politicians and politics.

Darawshah's resignation, his appeal for an Arab political bloc and the response he has received from several Arab figures inside Israel, may be a significant step on the road to "political independence" and a recovery of the national and patriotic identity of the Arabs, who can successfully produce 10 Arab candidates in the next Knesset elections.

We hope that all Arabs, especially the Palestinians, will do everything they can to encourage Palestinians in the old occupied territories to come up with an Arab political bloc outside the Zionist parties. This will serve not only the short-term goal of contesting the upcoming Knesset elections independently, but also the long-term objective of driving an Arab demographic wedge in the heart of the Israeli entity, which is already showing signs of old age and a society marked by conflict and disintegration.

French Minister Balladur Departs 29 Jan

JN2920O4 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Edouard Balladur, French deputy prime minister and minister of economy, finance, and privatization, left Al-'Aqaba today after a 3-day visit to Jordan. During his stay, he met with His Majesty King Husayn, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, and a number of other senior officials. He also held talks with Finance Minister Hanna 'Awdah on ways to bolster Jordanian-French economic cooperation in various fields. He was seen off at Al-'Aqaba Airport by Finance Minister Hanna 'Awdah, the French ambassador in Amman, a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the Al-'Aqaba district administrator and police chief.

Further Reportage on Abduction of FRG's Schray

Case 'Almost Resolved'

NC011557 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] AFP has cited an Amal Movement source as saying that the issue of kidnapped FRG hostage Schray is almost resolved. The source added that if the pace of the current contacts is maintained, Schray could be released within 1 or 2 days at most.

A source close to the FRG Embassy in Beirut has noted that he is pinning great hopes on Iranian mediation to seek the release of Schray who, according to the same source, has been abducted without Tehran's knowledge.

A Western diplomatic source in Beirut stated that the health of the second FRG hostage, Rudolf Cordes, who has been held captive since January 1987, has deteriorated in the last few months.

Syria's Kan'an Optimistic

NC011444 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon, called on acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss at 1230 today. He was accompanied by Brigadier General 'Ali Hammud, head of the Syrian observers team in Lebanon. The two parties reviewed the general situation in Lebanon and the kidnapping of West German national Ralph Schray.

The two Syrian officers then called on Minister Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement, and discussed the same subject.

Responding to a question on the nature of his visit, Brig Gen Kan'an said he is holding contacts with leaders and officials to review the general situation. Asked about Schray's case, Brig Gen Kan'an said: We are optimistic. It [his release] will be just a matter of time.

DPA Cites Kan'an on Release

LD011604 Hamburg DPA in German 1524 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Beirut (DPA)—Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, head of the Syrian Military secret service in Lebanon, continued his efforts today toward the release of the German-Lebanese hostage Ralph Schray (30). After a talk with Lebanese Justice Minister Nabih Birri, who is also leader of the Shi'ite Amal Movement, Kan'an said that he is "optimistic that Schray will soon regain his freedom."

Kan'an also met with shaykhs from the pro-Iranian Shi'ite Hizballah (Party of God) in the Shi'ite-controlled suburbs of Beirut in order to make contact with the abductors. As was to be heard from sources close to the secret service head, 'Abd al-Hadi Hamadah, the suspected abductor of Schray, has left Lebanon for Tehran in order to avoid Syrian pressure to release the hostage. 'Abd al-Hadi Hamadah, a Shi'ite extremist, is a brother of 'Abbas and Muhammad 'Ali Hamadah, the two Arabs imprisoned in the Federal Republic.

Wolfgang Goettelmann, ambassador of the Federal Republic in Lebanon, stated today that he is confident that the Schray kidnap case—which is not comparable with the Cordes case—will be solved because it is a burden on all parties. Schray was kidnapped last Wednesday in broad daylight in Syrian-controlled West Beirut.

Kan'an Promised Release

NC020840 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Syrian intelligence sources have been cited as saying that Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, who made contacts with quarters close to Schray's kidnappers in the past few hours, has received a promise of the German hostage's release today.

To Be Freed by 'Thursday'

NC021545 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] REUTER cites a source close to Syria as saying that close cooperation between Syria and Iran is expected to succeed in securing the release of West German Ralph Schray shortly. The source told REUTER that the matter is nearly solved and that the issue is being dealt with positively. The source said: We expect he will be freed by Thursday, because the parties concerned are still trying to make suitable arrangements for his release.

Further on Situation of Belgian Hostages

Bitterlin Visits Camps

NC011813 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Lucien Bitterlin, head of the French-Arab Friendship Society, visited the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps today in order to give momentum to negotiations with the Fatah Revolutionary Council to secure the release of two French girls.

Lucien Bitterlin arrived in Beirut yesterday. He walked in the rain through muddy alleys to the two camps.

Bitterlin 'Not Optimistic'

NC021201 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Lucien Bitterlin, head of the French-Arab Friendship Society, has stated that he is not optimistic over his mediation to release the two French girls held by Fatah. Bitterlin left Beirut today for Sidon, where he will meet with Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization.

Videotape of Hostages Released

NC021642 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1525 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] This afternoon in Beirut the Fatah Movement-the Revolutionary Council, led by Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], released a videotape of three of the eight hostages it is holding. In the tape, one of them affirms that he was asked by Israeli intelligence services to visit Israel. In a short message, Belgian-born Ferdinand Houtekins stated that he had contacted the Mossad, which requested that he and his companions go to Israel.

His companion, Jacqueline, a French citizen, stressed that she refuses to be separated from her two daughters, Virginie and Marie-Laure, whose release was announced in late January and then postponed.

Emmanual [Houtekins] expressed astonishment with the Belgian Government's inaction. In his opinion, the Belgian Government does not care about the eight prisoners.

'Links' With Mossad Admitted

NC021459 Paris AFP in English 1435 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Beirut, Feb 2 (AFP)—A Palestinian group holding nine French and Belgian hostages released a videotape here Tuesday in which one of them said he had links with Israeli intelligence services.

Belgian Ferdinand Houtekins, who was among eight people seized aboard a boat in the eastern Mediterranean on November 8 by Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), said on the tape that Mossad had "asked us to go to Israel."

His companion, Frenchwoman Jacqueline Valente said on the same tape that she refused to be separated from her two children, Virginie, 4, and Marie-Laure, 6, whose release had been announced by FRC for the end of last month.

Mrs Valente has since had a baby, raising the number of hostages to nine, according to the FRC.

Ferdinand's brother Emmanuel Houtekins, filmed against the backdrop of a Palestinian flag and FRC posters, said he was "surprised" that the Belgian Government was not "taking care" of the eight hostages.

The video cassette was released just hours after the head of a Franco-Arab solidarity group travelled to the southern port of Sidon, where the hostages are believed held, to seek the release of the two little French girls.

Lucien Bitterlin, the head of the Franco-Arab Solidarity Association, was to meet with leading Sidon figure Mustafa Sa'd.

However, he told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE he was not optimistic on the outcome of his negotiations.

Meanwhile in Paris, lawyers for the hostages' families released a statement denouncing the kidnappers' "fake promises," following the delay in the release of two French girls.

The FRC's statement December 4 that it would allow the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to visit the hostages was "also a fake promise," they said.

Recorded hostage "confessions" or statements by the FRC group holding them would not be heeded unless an ICRC delegate was allowed to see the hostages, the lawyers warned.

The lawyers said that in addition to the baby and the two little girls, two Belgian adolescents were among the nine hostages.

The FRC is a breakaway group of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Gunmen Kill French National in East Beirut

NC021155 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] According to security sources, three gunmen in a Peugeot 504 opened fire from a silencer-equipped Kalashnikov at French national Jacques Meurant, the son of Professor Meurant, while he was driving his car at the Al-Siryan crossroads in the Al-'Adiliyah area [of East Beirut] a short while ago. Meurant's body was taken to the Hotel Dieu Hospital.

Al-Ashrafiyah platoon commander Major 'Id immediately headed for the scene of the incident with criminologists and judicial police. The perpetrators' car is now being sought.

Victim Reportedly Security Guard

NC021305 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Gunmen assassinated French national Jacques Meurant, 27, at the Al-'Adiliyah-Hayy al-Siryan-Hotel Dieu junction at 1235 today. According to reports available to the Voice of Lebanon, Meurant was a French security guard and was on a visit to the Public Security Directorate. Upon leaving the Directorate building, and before getting into his car, a red BMW 320, licence number 1101348, gunmen riding in a blue 504 Peugeot fired three shots at him from a silencer-equipped weapon. Meurant tried to pull his gun in self-defense, but the gunmen were faster. [passage omitted]

Upon a French request, investigations were conducted at the scene of the incident, with the body left untouched. [passage omitted]

Embassy Says Meurant 'Salesman'

NC021325 Paris AFP in English 1306 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Beirut, Feb 2 (AFP)—Gunmen firing at point blank range shot and killed a Frenchman Tuesday in Christian-controlled East Beirut, police said.

The French Embassy, confirming the killing, identified the victim as Jacques Meurant, a salesman who had been coming to Lebanon on business.

Police said he was shot three times in the head at the wheel of his car by unidentified men, one of whom fired a pistol equipped with a silencer.

The attack occurred at 1:00 p.m. local time near the Justice Ministry, not far from the line dividing Christian and Muslim sectors of the Lebanese capital.

A statement from the Lebanese Forces, the Christian militia controlling East Beirut, said the Peugeot 504 used by the assailants entered the eastern sector from Muslim West Beirut via the Lebanese Army-controlled Museum crossing, the sole passage linking the two halves of the city.

It said Mr Meurant was slain just minutes after conferring with Jamil Ni'mah, director of Lebanese Internal Security.

The attack was the third in as many months against French nationals in the Christian quarters of the Lebanese capital.

A French gendarme was shot dead in October and another seriously wounded when gunmen opened fire at them. A French engineer was killed in similar circumstances last November.

Hostages in Lebanon Now Held by Iranian Guards

PM021229 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 30 Jan 88 p 7

[Unattributed Report: "Iran Took Charge of Hostages in Lebanon"]

[Text] Security sources in Beirut said that Iran has taken direct charge of a number of foreign hostages detained in Lebanon, among them the Archbishop of Cantebury's envoy Terry Waite, in order to obtain more concessions from the Western states concerned, including the sale of new quantities of arms to it.

The sources pointed out that the hostages have been transferred to new secret locations under strict guard provided by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard out of fear that their Lebanese kidnappers might conclude deals to release them without Tehran's approval or knowledge.

Within this context sources close to Hizballah reported that late last December Iran hampered negotiations that were about to result in the release of the German, Rudolph Cordes, who has been detained for over a year, and the U.S. journalist Terry Anderson, who fell into the kidnappers hands before the other hostages.

The same sources revealed that the deal included exchanging Rudolph Cordes for the Lebanese Muhammad 'Ali Hamadah, detained in West Germany on a charge of participating in hijacking the U.S. TWA plane to Beirut Airport in June 1985, in addition to a ransom of $3 million to be paid the kidnappers, as well as an assurance that the 17 prisoners detained in Kuwait, charged with carrying out various explosion operations, are treated well.

As for the release of Terry Anderson, it was to be secured as a step in return for Washington abandoning the request for Hamadah's extradition for trial on the charge of hijacking the plane and murdering one of the marines on board.

The sources confirmed that Tehran knew of the matter and told its representatives in Lebanon that they must stop the negotiations with West Germany and not conclude any deals with it before Bonn agrees to provide Iran with various types of arms in addition to materials necessary for the manufacture of chemical weapons.

Shi'ites Claim Kidnapping of Libyan Agent

NC012014 Paris AFP in English 1943 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Beirut, Feb 1 (AFP)-An underground Lebanese Shi'ite group claimed Monday to have kidnapped a Libyan secret agent here, the latest twist in a nine-year-old feud sparked by the disappearance of a Shi'ite leader.

The claim by the Al-Sadr Brigades came as the Lebanese Foreign Ministry approved the appointment of a new Libyan ambassador to Beirut, where Tripoli's embassy has been closed since an August 1984 bombing also claimed by the Shi'ite group.

The Al-Sadr Brigades abducted "within the last 48 hours Muhammad Mu'atiyah of the Libyan intelligence services," said a caller to a Western press agency who identified himself as a group member.

"This abduction is a warning to other Libyan agents," the caller said, adding that the group would not release its hostage.

He charged that Mr. Mu'atiyah, 29, had been in Beirut "for eight or nine months on a mission assigned by Libyan officers focusing on our organization."

The Al-Sadr Brigades take their name from Imam Musa al-Sadr, the founder the Shi'ite Amal Movement, who disappeared in August 1978 during a visit to Libya.

Since then, the group has claimed several anti-Libyan attacks, including the August 1984 dynamiting of the Libyan "People's Bureau" or embassy in Moslem West Beirut.

The group last surfaced in August 1987, when it warned against any attempts to reopen the embassy.

On Monday, a Lebanese Foreign Ministry spokesman announced that Lebanon had accepted the appointment of 'Ashur 'Abd al-Majid al-Furtas as "secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau," or ambassador, in Beirut.

Mr. al-Furtas, a career diplomat posted in Beirut from 1966-71, has served on the Libyan delegation to the United Nations during the last three years, the spokesman said.

Only three Arab countries—Algeria, North Yemen and South Yemen—still maintain embassies in West Beirut.

Islamic Resistance Threatens To Execute Israeli

NC012050 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] The Islamic Resistance released a statement in Beirut this evening in which it threatened to execute the Israeli soldier, whom it has been holding captive for 2 years, should the oppressive measures against Muslims in Israel continue.

Shaykh Shams al-Din Leaves for Tehran 1 Feb

NC011522 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, left for Damascus today en route to Iran to attend the Conference on Islamic Thought and the anniversary celebrations of the victory of the Islamic revolution.

Further on Visit by Iranian Delegation

Meets Nasirite Leader

LD311648 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Beirut, Jan. 31, IRNA—An Iranian delegation led by head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) and managing director of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) Kamal Kharrazi, conferred with head of the Nasirite Popular Organisation of Lebanon Mustafa Sa'd, in Sidon Saturday.

At the end of the meeting Sa'd told reporters that his group is ready to cooperate with Islamic Iran to foil Zionist conspiracies against Lebanese Muslims and plots for splitting up this Muslim Land.

"[The] situation in Lebanon is similar to the one before the Islamic revolution in Iran, and therefore, Lebanese people should use experience of the Islamic revolution to fight enemies of Islam," Sa'd said. He also called for continued cooperation between the two Muslim countries.

Meanwhile, the Iranian delegation visited 'Zafta' village east of Sidon on the same day where it was welcomed by the local villagers and the cultural, security and administrative officials of the Amal Movement in southern Lebanon.

The delegation later toured 'Jabchit' [placename as received] village in the suburbs of Nabatiyah town and paid tribute to the martyrs of the Lebanon's Islamic movement including martyr Shaykh Raghib Harb and Bilal Fahs.

The Iranian entourage also conferred with teachers and students of Imam Musa al-Sadr theological school and inspected cultural foundations in the city of Tyre.

Visits Mujahidin Headquarters

LD011845 Tehran IRNA in English 1737 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Beirut, Feb. 1, IRNA—Head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) and managing director of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) Kamal Kharrazi currently leading a delegation here, inspected headquarters of Lebanese mujahidin in Jabal Amil region near the so-called Zionist security zone in south Lebanon Sunday.

The Iranian delegates were briefed on tactics the mujahidin employ to carry out their operations against Zionist occupiers and their mercenaries.

"Faith of Lebanese Muslims has played an important role in their victories," Kharrazi told the mujahidin.

Meanwhile, Kharrazi accompanied by the Iranian ambassador to Lebanon Ahmad Dastmalchian conferred with a group of commanders of the Islamic resistance of south Lebanon, in Beirut on the same day.

Resistance Inflicts 30 Casualties in Attacks
NC012054 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] The group of martyr hero Kamal al-Laqqis of the Lebanese Resistance Brigades—Amal carried out a significant and daring operation at 1600 today. Using automatic weapons and rockets, the group stormed a position jointly held by the Zionists and their agents in Kafr Hunah. As a result, all ramparts and fortifications were destroyed and all the soldiers manning the position were either killed or wounded.

At the same time, another group laid an ambush near the same position. It subsequently clashed with a joint enemy-agents patrol that tried to assist the soldiers manning the position. Two enemy vehicles were destroyed and their passengers were killed or wounded in the clash.

Meanwhile, Amal's artillery unit shelled enemy positions on Al-Ahmadiyah Hill, Taw'amat Niha, and 'Ayn al-Khawkh, scoring direct hits.

The enemy's losses in the foregoing operations were estimated at approximately 30 soldiers killed or wounded, and two vehicles and one position destroyed.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Force Closure of Main Link to USSR

BK021238 Hong Kong AFP in English 1200 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Islamadad, Feb 2 (AFP)—Intense fighting in northern Afghanistan since last week has led to the closure to civilian traffic of the main overland link with the Soviet Union, the Salang highway, Western diplomats here said Tuesday.

The diplomats also confirmed resistance reports that the mujahidin have again cut the Khowst-Gardeyz highway in the east, which was reopened by a Soviet-Afghan force last month after six weeks of heavy fighting.

The diplomats said Soviet forces suffered heavy casualties in the northern fighting.

The Salang highway is a vital supply line and was closed to civilian traffic January 28, the diplomats said, adding mujahidin resistance guerillas have coordinated their operations in the area and closed a road linking Kabul with the Lowgar area.

Kabul is heavily dependent on the Salang highway for supplies from the Soviet Union and its closure to civilians is a significant success for the mujahidin, observers said.

The road is also important as it is the one Soviet forces would use in the event of a withdrawal, they added.

Afghan guerillas also captured two military posts in the bordering northern province of Faryab, the diplomats said, killing 14 soldiers.

Najibullah, Wakil Meet With UN's Cordovez

LD011611 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] This morning at Gol Khanah Palace, the presidential headquarters, esteemed Afghan President Najibullah met with Diego Cordovez, UN under secretary general and special envoy of the UN secretary general at the Geneva talks between the Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

During the meeting, which was also attended by Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil, the Afghan president spoke about issues related to solving the Afghan situation and once again stressed the official and principled stand of the country with regard to the Geneva talks.

According to another report, talks took place this afternoon at the Foreign Ministry between Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil and His Excellency Diego Cordovez. During this meeting, the two sides exchanged views on topics related to solving the situation in Afghanistan. During the talks, the Afghan side assured the special envoy of the UN secretary general of its readiness for the next round of Geneva talks between the Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Cordovez Denies Meeting With Resistance Alliance

OW300029 Tokyo KYODO in English 0008 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 30 KYODO—United Nations mediator Diego Cordovez Friday denied a Voice of America report that a meeting has taken place between him and Pakistan-based Afghan resistance leader Yunis Khalis.

Cordovez told a reporter the report was misleading and that he was being abused by some people.

The U.N. mediator visited Lahore Friday to hold talks with senior Pakistani officials who have been trying since Tuesday to resolve the various issues relating to the withdrawal of Soviet troops and the formation of a broad-based interim government in Afghanistan.

Kawiani Holds Talks With Lebanese Communists

LD020704 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Kabul, February 1, BAKHTAR—A high-ranking delegation of the Communist Party of Lebanon headed by Karim Muruwwah, deputy general secretary of that party, arrived here for a friendly visit at the invitation of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) today.

Meeting with the delegation, Najmuddin Kawiani explained the process of realisation of the policy of national reconciliation, its gains scored so far.

Najmuddin Kawiani, Politburo member and secretary of PDPA CC and Abdur Rahman Basam [name as received], deputy chairman of the International Affairs Department of the PDPA CC, received the Lebanese delegation at the Kabul International Airport.

Soviet Construction, Republic Delegations Visit

Keshtmand Receives Delegations

LD301831 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] This morning at the Council of Ministers headquarters of the Republic of Afghanistan, Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand met with O.V. Bortnev, deputy chairman of the Soviet State Construction Committee, who recently arrived in our country for a working friendly visit.

Gol Dad, deputy prime minister; Mahbullah Koshani, deputy prime minister and head of the State Planning Committee; Nazar Muhammad, minister of construction affairs; (Chobar Yuri Fedorovich), minister counsellor at the Soviet Embassy in Kabul; Aleksandr Petrov, economic counsellor at the Soviet Embassy in Kabul; and the members of the visiting delegation were present during this meeting.

During this session, views were exchanged on construction cooperation with the Soviet Union and the possibilities for its expansion.

According to another report, Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand this afternoon met with O.I. Zheltikov, deputy chairman of the Kazakhistan Council of Ministers, who recently arrived in our country at the head of a delegation. The following attended the meeting: Muhammad Hakim and Muhammad 'Aziz, deputies to the prime minister; Sayyed Ekram Paygir, minister of state for cooperation; Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, Soviet ambassador to Kabul; and other members of the visiting delegation.

During this meeting, views were exchanged on the general role and importance of direct ties between the provinces of the Republic of Afghanistan and the oblasts and republics of the USSR. Particular attention was focused on the establishment of direct cooperation relations between the Kazakh oblasts and Qandahar, Zabol, and Oruzgan Provinces.

According to a BIA report, based on direct relations between these provinces and the Kazakh SSR, a total of 1,200 tonnes of goods—including basic goods, equipment, and tools for Qandahar, Zabol, and Oruzgan Provinces—have been delivered to the Republic of Afghanistan.

Ziray, Kazakh Officials Meet

LD310000 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Saleh Muhammad Ziray, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, met in his office this afternoon with a high-ranking delegation from the Kazakh SSR. The delegation is led by O.I. Zheltikov, deputy chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers.

During this meeting, Saleh Muhammad Ziray spoke about the gains of the national reconciliation policy and assessed highly the influence of the Kazakh SSR's direct cooperation in the further development of Qandahar, Zabol, and Oruzgan Provinces.

In response, the delegation promised further cooperation with these provinces.

According to another report, the guest delegation today visited the central institute of projects of the Construction Affairs Ministry and promised cooperation for its further development and expansion.

A further report added that the delegation also visited the Friendship School and spoke with a number of officials and students there.

Hakim Muhammad Meets Soviets

LD310053 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] In his office today, Deputy Prime Minister Hakim Muhammad met with a high-ranking delegation from the Kazakh SSR headed by Zheltikov, vice chairman of the Kazakh Council of Ministers.

According to another report, Muhammad Hakim also met with a high-ranking delegation from the Azerbaijan SSR headed by Aliyev, minister of irrigation of Azerbaijan. They discussed matters of mutual interest, especially direct cooperation between the Azerbaijan SSR and the Paktia and Paktika Provinces and the Khowst district, as well as direct cooperation between the provinces of Qandahar, Zabol, and Oruzgan and the Kazakh SSR.

Another report noted that the high-ranking Kazakh delegation visited public health and educational institutes, as well as wool factories and the (Omid) crate factory in Qandahar yesterday. The delegation promised all types of socioeconomic cooperation with the provinces.

Protocol With Azerbaijan SSR

LD311825 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Protocols on direct cooperation between Paktia and Paktika Provinces and the Khowst district and the Azerbaijan SSR were concluded in Kabul today. The protocols were signed by the governors of Paktia and Paktika Provinces and Khowst district and the Azerbaijan SSR irrigation minister. Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Hakim and other ministers were also present. Protocol documents were then exchanged.

Under the protocols, which were signed at the headquarters of the Republic of Afghanistan Council of Ministers, the Azerbaijan SSR will render assistance in all fields to these areas during 1988.

Protocol With Kazakh SSR

LD311906 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] In Kabul today, a protocol was concluded on direct cooperation between the Kazakh SSR and the Qandahar, Zabol, and Uruzgan Provinces. A BIA correspondent reports that Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Hakim and a number of the ministers of the

Republic of Afghanistan were present. The protocol was signed at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers by the deputy minister of the Council of Ministers of the Kazakh Republic and by the governors of Qandahar, Zabol, and Oruzgan. The documents were then exchanged.

Under the protocol, the Kazakh SSR will provide necessary assistance in 1988 to these provinces as required and determined by their governors.

Najibullah Addresses Armed Forces Activists
LD012353 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] With the participation of the esteemed Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of Afghanistan, a session of activists from the Armed Forces party organizations was held in connection with the results of the Dalw [21 January-19 February] plenum of the PDPA Central Committee and the further duties of these party organizations in the implementation of the Constitution.

Esteemed Najibullah delivered the principal speech at the working session. He pointed out the important aspects of the resolutions of the Dalw plenum, specified the further duties of the Armed Forces party organizations in implementing the Dalw plenum resolutions, and asserted: It is necessary for us to assess critically the path we have traveled. We should think about the lessons learned and make the correct assessment for future progress.

A complex turning point has arrived in our people's lives. The content of our vital activities determines the resolution of our strategic tasks—ensuring peace and security, forming a coalition and a multiparty system, and consolidating the foundations of the state as nonaligned, independent, and neutral.

The esteemed Najibullah commented on the party's basic directions and further tasks in the political, military, economic, social, and foreign affairs spheres. He said: We are bound by duty to serve our people with honesty. Our people must be very dear to us. These people are weary of war and demand peace and security from us. To fulfill this demand is the essence of the national reconciliation policy, the essence of our activity and our life.

The esteemed Najibullah's speech was listened to attentively and welcomed by the session's participants.

On behalf of the those participating in the session, the following then spoke: the head of Army political affairs; the first deputy minister of state security; the head of political affairs of the defense of the revolution high command; the high commander of the Air Force and Air Defense Force; the head of political affairs of the border forces high command; the chairman of the Defense Ministry's operations department; and an assault force soldier.

They spoke about enhancing the level of political awareness and raising the level of combat readiness, morale, and combat capability among Armed Forces personnel who are the defense and shield of our country's borders.

They also discussed other duties of Armed Forces personnel and said that they will spare no efforts to implement the Dalw plenum resolutions and the instructive speech by the esteemed Najibullah.

At the end of the work session a resolution was issued.

Najibullah Addresses Kabul City Party Session
LD311844 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] A session of Kabul city party activists was held yesterday in connection with the results of the Dalw [21 January-19 February] plenum of the PDPA Central Committee to further implement the duties of that organization in view of the resolutions.

The working session was attended by the esteemed Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the Republic of Afghanistan. He delivered the principal speech, pointed out the main directions of the Dalw plenum's resolutions, and specified the further duties of the Kabul city party in putting these resolutions into practice.

In connection with implementing the national reconciliation policy and the immediate tasks of the party, esteemed Najibullah said: After the 365 days that have elapsed since the declaration of the national reconciliation policy, this policy has been transformed from a slogan and an invitation into a system of measures in the political, economic, military, social and international spheres. It also covers the principles of the national and democratic revolution and the characteristics of Afghanistan's society.

This program was turned into a state policy, a new political thought, and a peace philisophy. Implementing the national reconciliation policy naturally raised the prestige of our party among the masses. The people saw in our party a power which is capable of leading the country to peace.

Following his speech, Zohur Razmjo, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, thanked esteemed Najibullah for his instructive speech, which drew the attention of the activists of the Kabul city party to the implementation of national reconciliation.

Then a number of the session's participants expressed their views about the principal speech. In approving the speech, they expressed their readiness to implement the national reconciliation policy.

According to a BIA correspondent's report, organizational issues of the Kabul city party committee were discussed.

During this discussion, Zohur Razmjo was relieved of membership of the executive bureau and the Kabul city party committee, as a result of his change in duties.

In addition, Daud Razemyar—newly appointed secretary of the Kabul city party committee by the PDPA Central Committee Politburo—was approved as a member of the executive bureau and Kabul city party committee.

The good service rendered by Zohur Razmjo, as secretary of the Kabul city party committee, was also praised during the session.

The BIA correspondent adds that in a speech, Daud Razemyar expressed his thanks to the PDPA Central Committee Politburo for its trust in appointing him to the post of Kabul city party committee secretary. He said that with the cooperation of the members of the Kabul city party he will expend all his efforts and energy to implement national reconciliation as stated in the instructive speech by the esteemed Najibullah, and the decisions of the Dalw plenum of the PDPA Central Committee.

Security Seizes Surface-to-Surface Missiles

LD012250 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] The country's security forces, with the cooperation of the peace-loving people of Paghman District, Kabul Province, prevented a destructive action by extremist elements, who wanted to attack our compatriots' houses in Kabul city by launching surface-to-surface missiles.

According to a BIA correspondent, as a result of timely action by the security forces, which took place in the Urea Khel region of Paghman District, 12 surface-to-surface missiles and 3 of their detonators were discovered and seized.

Former Opposition Members Return; Aid Provided

LD301534 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Since the declaration of the national reconciliation policy in this country, 279 families, consisting of 1,590 persons, have returned to their villages in Helmand Province from Iran and Pakistan. Another 446 families, comprising more than 2,300 persons, have returned to their homes from within the country.

A spokesman for the national reconciliation commission in Helmand Province told a BAKHTAR correspondent in Lashkar Gah city that during the same period, 364 former members of the armed opposition have come over to the side of the policy of national reconciliation. Some 33 ringleaders of the armed opposition have observed the cease-fire. Seventy-five villages of Helmand Province have been declared peace regions since the convocation of tribal assemblies.

Moreover, during the period since the declaration of the national reconciliation policy, the government's authority has been consolidated in 184 villages of this province; 105 tonnes of wheat, more than 5 tonnes of sugar, and other types of foodstuff and consumer goods have been distributed to our returning compatriots in the form of government aid and from the aid provided by the friendly country, the USSR.

The source added that 93 national reconciliation commissions have been established in Helmand Province to implement the national reconciliation policy. Among the 1,155 members, 213 are former members of the armed and unarmed opposition.

Bangladesh

Rome Paper Interviews President Ershad

PM011416 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 28 Jan 88 p 14

[Interview with President Hussain Mohammad Ershad by Marco Ansaldo in Rome; date not given]

[Excerpt] Rome—[Introductory passage omitted] [Ansaldo] Mr President, since 10 November, when the opposition launched a campaign of protest strikes, the situation in Bangladesh has been deteriorating by the hour. The number of deaths rises daily and several hundred people have now been wounded. The opposition describes police actions as "organized atrocities." Is it true?

[Ershad] I deny it categorically. The disorders that have been disrupting Dhaka, the capital, and the country's other major cities in recent months are deliberately provoked by those who launched the protest. They wreck stores, cause disorder in the streets, and attack the law and order forces. The police have simply taken adequate measures against these provocateurs.

[Ansaldo] A couple of days before the tide of protest spread through your country it seems, Mr President, that you spoke about two women opposition leaders, Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina Wajed, saying that "zero plus zero equals zero." However, the 3 months of tough protests show that those two women have thousands of supporters. Do you really consider them "two zeros?" Are you not afraid of losing the March elections?

[Ershad] If they have thousands of supporters, I have millions. This is why I am here and they are not. I will tell you something, and I state this most emphatically: They will never win the elections; they will never be elected so long as they stand against me. I have been working for this country for 6 years. The Bangladeshis are not an ungrateful people. Come to Bangladesh and see for yourself.

[Ansaldo] If the opposition were to be successful, however, would you allow anyone not belonging to your own party, the Jana Dal, into your cabinet?

[Ershad] Of course. Democracy prevails in Bangladesh. When the strongest party wins the elections, it secures the key state posts. There are over 100 parties in our country. Some of these take part in the elections, others do not. It all depends on the election results. If a party other than that in power were to be successful, it would automatically be granted its due.

[Ansaldo] President Ershad, Bangladesh is one of the world's poorest and most densely populated countries. It is also particularly vulnerable to the natural disasters that beset it on a regular basis. What is your government doing to try to limit this tragic situation?

[Ershad] Unfortunately, our country is indeed among those countries most exposed to disasters. Among our major objectives we have the 3-year plan to eliminate poverty from rural areas through job creation programs in the agricultural sector. Step by step, we are trying to create greater job opportunities. We have our sights set particularly on improving agricultural infrastructures, and it is here especially that cooperation between Bangladesh and IFAD [International Fund for Agricultural Development] can produce the best results.

[Ansaldo] Mr President, several years ago Henry Kissinger, then American secretary of state, described your country as "the world's waste basket." Do you consider it a fair description?

[Ershad] We certainly do not want to be described as insatiable and we are working to change that image. We currently produce approximately 15 million tons of grain a year, which means a shortfall of 1.5 tons [as published]. Ours is a fertile country, however, and we should have no problems with feeding our people if we succeed in combining agricultural production with a birth control policy. We will change that unfortunate image.

[Ansaldo] Much will also depend on the outcome of the 3 March general elections.

[Ershad] Correct. I am ready to relinquish power to whoever wins the elections. However, I refuse to relinquish my post immediately, as the opposition is now demanding, to a provisional and neutral government. I would add that I am also willing to accept supervision by the nonaligned countries during the elections to ensure that they are conducted correctly.

India

Detention of Bangladesh Refugees Denied

BK010330 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] India has denied the allegations made in a section of Bangladesh media regarding detention of Chakma [tribal] refugees. The allegations were reportedly made by refugees, who have returned to Bangladesh, to a visiting Amnesty International team.

In a press release issued in Dhaka yesterday, an Indian High Commission spokesman said despite the strain on Tripura, India continues to provide shelter to these refugees on humanitarian grounds as they are afraid of returning to Chittagong Hill Tracts. India wants these people to return voluntarily after restoration of their confidence. The spokesman also said New Delhi does not want to be saddled with this internal problem of Bangladesh.

Home Minister Reviews Punjab, Tripura Situation

BK011253 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, had a meeting with the Punjab governor, Mr S.S. Ray, in New Delhi today. They reviewed the situation in the state. Among other things, steps to tighten the security measures and adopt revised strategy for meeting the terrorist menace were discussed. It was attended by the director general of Punjab police, Mr J.F. Ribeiro; the union home secretary, Mr Somiah; and other senior officials.

Mr Buta Singh also spoke to the governor of Tripura, General K.V. Krishna Rao, over telephone and reviewed the situation in the state. They discussed the steps taken by the security forces after the state was declared a disturbed area following the recent spate of violence which left 69 people dead. Major General S.P. Talwar has taken over charge as the commander of the task force. About 60 companies of various central forces have been dispatched to assist the existing paramilitary personnel in the state.

'Extremist' Violence Continues in Tripura State

23 Killed, 10 Injured

BK310322 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] In Tripura, TNV [Tripura National Volunteers] extremists struck again last night killing 23 persons and injuring 10. The director general of police, Mr R.P.

Sharma, told our correspondent this morning that extremists shot dead 10 persons and injured 2 at (Pathchari) in North Tripura District.

In the second incident at (Juardi) in West Tripura District, seven persons were killed and eight injured. The TNV extremists gunned down six people at Brahmachera in South Tripura District. A few houses were set ablaze. The Army has been alerted.

A high-level meeting was held in Agartala yesterday to discuss counterinsurgency measures. An Army major general has been designated as task force commander to supervise the operations. Battalions of the Assam Rifles and the Border Security Force will render back-up support to the Army.

10 More Killed 31 Jan

BK010311 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] In Tripura, the TNV extremists struck again last night killing 10 persons, including 3 women, at Shantipara in Belonia subdivision of South Tripura District. This was disclosed to our Agartala correspondent by the DIG [deputy inspector general] of police this morning. The extremists struck at the village opening indiscriminate fire from automatic weapons, killing eight on the spot. Two persons succumbed to their injuries in the hospital. Security forces have rushed to the spot.

'Extremists' Kill 2 Nontribals

BK020348 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] A PTI report from Agartala says two more nontribals were killed by the TNV extremists yesterday. According to police, the extremists killed two persons at Ananda Bazar under the Nutan Bazar police station in the South District.

PATRIOT Views Naxalites' Move Into Bihar

BK300950 Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Jan 88 p 5

[Text] Gaya (Bihar), Jan 6 (UNI)—Three prominent Naxalite groups have spread their tentacles in Bihar's Gaya-Jehanabad belt where four policemen were killed in a daring raid on a police outpost last Monday.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Vindo Mishra group, Maoist Communist Centre (MCC) and the Mazdoor Kisan Sangharash Samiti [Worker Peasant Struggle Committee] (MKSS) have been organising the militant landless against armed landlords in this belt.

The Monday attack on Vishnuganj police outpost and the looting of its armoury came six days after the ambush of a police party by Naxalites in Chatra forest of Hazaribagh.

Police say this is the first time after a long period of lull that Naxalite groups have picked on policemen as target following the stepping up of anti-Naxalite operation in the belt soon after the Aurangabad massacre.

The MCC, most dreaded and aggressive had killed 42 Rajputs at Baghura and Dalelchack villages of Aurangabad District last May.

Police have blamed the MCC for the ambush on police party in the Chatra forest of Hazaribagh on 28 December.

The MCC which shot to notoriety with the killing of 11 Rajputs at Darmia village in Aurangabad District in October 1986, has been active in the State for a decade.

Raising slogans like "he who tills the land, sows the seeds and harvests the crop is the real owner of the land", the group has been wooing landless Yadavas, Harijans and Kahars to fight the landed gentry.

The MCC was founded by late Kanai Chatterji in the sixties under the name of "Dakshin Desh" [Left Country] as an instrument of "true" Maoism based on the Chinese experience.

Kanai Chatterji, who was a trade union leader in West Bengal, never joined the mainstream of Naxalism formed by Charu Mazumdar in 1969 as he thought they were not "true" followers of Mao Zedong.

The "Dakshin Desh" changed its name to the "MCC" in the seventies and moved to Bihar's hilly tracts in Aurangabad District.

The MCC movement in Bihar started from a hill just as legendary Mao began his stir in China.

Although the hilly tracts of Amas, Parayia and Madanpur areas were the main theatre of its operation, the MCC extended to fringes of Gaya, Hazaribagh and Palamau Districts under the leadership of Pramod Misra and "mysterious" Sanjay Dussandh.

The MCC organisation today consists of an underground party unit—Krantikari Kisan Committee (KKC), the Red Defence Corps and the youth and women fronts.

The Krantikari Kisan Committee is the main organ through which the MCC has been spreading out in villages emphasising on "land to the landless" and "all power to peasants".

Police say that the KKC has seized 5000 acres of land belonging to absentee landlords and distributed them among the landless peasants.

It has also seized ploughs and oxens mortgaged to landlords and given them back to poor peasants.

The MCC have set ablaze a number of "kachehris" (farm offices) of landlords in many villages to wipe out "symbols" of feudal authority.

Hirelings of the landlords and the MCC have clashed on numerous occasions and police put the number of deaths since 1980 at 400.

Landlords have been complaining that rich farmers are being bullied and harassed by the MCC and other two Naxalite groups who are running "parallel" administration, collecting levies and extorting "protection" money.

The Naxalites have been holding "peoples courts" to settle land disputes in favour of landless peasants.

However, the MCC has been faction-ridden after the death of its leader Kanhai Chatterji in 1982.

The second underground organisation is the CPI (ML)-party unity group which operates through the Mazdoor Kisan Sanghrash Samiti (MKSS) which was outlawed after the Arwal massacre.

Twenty-three villagers said to be MKSS supporters were gunned down by police at Arwal in April 1986.

An ultra-leftist outfit, the MKSS is headed by Dr Vinayan and is active in seven Bihar districts.

Dr Vinayan who hails from Haryana formed the MKSS after a stint as a leader of the Chatra Sanghursha Vahini [Student Struggle Force] in 1977. He launched campaigns against the Mahant in Gaya.

The MKSS functions from "hidden" headquarters in Jehanabad and Dehri-on-Sone. It is said to have let loose a reign of terror in a number of villages, grabbing lands belonging to landlords and later "selling" them to the poor landless.

The first encounter between police and MKSS activists took place at Kaithy in Aurangabad District in 1978 when eight people were killed.

Between 1984 and 1986, the group snatched 300 firearms from policemen.

1985 saw spurt in the activity of the MKSS when it made fequent attacks on police outposts in different villages.

In March 1985, the MKSS attacked the Hassan Bazaar police outpost killing two policemen. It also conducted forced harvesting of crops in disputed lands.

The MKSS is also believed to have links with the Indian Peoples Front (IPF)—the umbrella organisation of 89 Marxist-Leninist groups—formed at a rally in New Delhi in 1982.

The third and the oldest Naxalite group in Bihar is the Liberation group or the Vinod Mishra group of the CPI(ML). The Vinod Mishra group is active in 60 blocks of Bihar.

The Vinod Mishra group recently circulated a document among its cadre spelling out its plans to join the national mainstream.

The document released by rival groups spoke about the need for "softer approach" by the Naxalite groups towards the CPI and the CPI(M).

Political observers who attach considerable importance to the document said this indicated shift in the group's ideology.

The document which wanted the expansion of armed gangs to be stopped, also favoured dissolution of the IPF to form a new "peoples party" of Naxalite leaders.

The Indian Peoples Front has been very active as an overground Marxist-Leninist organisation.

In the Assembly election held in March 1985, it put up candidates in 53 constituencies but not a single candidate got elected.

It was in 1967 that the Naxalism wave first reached Bihar.

The movement was brought to the State by Jagadish Mahato and Rameshwar Ahir of Bhojpur under the influence of Charu Mazumdar.

In 1967 at Mushari in Muzaffarpur District, veteran Naxalite leaders like Satya Narain Singh, Tufan Chandra Joshi and Umadhar Singh formed the Bihar State Coordination Committee of the CPI(M-L).

At the instance of the committee, the oppressed landless and marginal farmers rose in armed revolt against the upper caste landlords.

The first anti-zamindari [landlordism] agitation in the State was, however, launched by the CPI in 1930.

Near Begusarai in central Bihar, there exists a place called "Stalin Nagar" or Stalingrad of Bihar where the armed uprising was first launched.

Algerian Minister's Predeparture Statement

LD301708 Kuwait KUNA in English 1540 GMT 30 Jan 88

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 30 (KUNA)—Algeria has suggested direct talks between Polisario and the Moroccan Government to settle Western Sahara problem.

Talking to newsmen here before his departure for London early this morning Algerian Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi said the situation in Sahara is more mature for settlement now. The Algerian minister observed that the Moroccan regime was spending massive amount in sustaining war efforts against Polisario guerrillas.

The Algerian minister, who was here on a six-day visit, met Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, several ministers and the President R. Venkataraman and exchanged ideas with them on various international problems and bilateral matters. He briefed the prime minister about the situation in Sahara.

Ibrahimi said "We are awaiting special committee report sumbitted to the United Nations secretary general last week on Western Sahara. We hope the secretary general will make a proposal for settlement very soon.

He said the Algerian President Chadli Bendjidid met Moroccan King Hassan at the border between the two countries a few years back and the king seemed agreeable to a proposal to create a Saharan entity within the framework of the Maghreb.

A second meeting was arranged between the Algerian president and the Moroccan king on May 4, 1987 with Saudi king present on the occasion. Some human problems were sorted out, but no head [as received] was made regarding the core issue.

Referring to the role of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in seeking justice for the Palestinian people the Algerian minister said "Israel would never have a moderate leader like Yasir 'Arafat to deal with the Palestinian question. A new element has emerged on the ground, namely the uprising in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank" he said, hoping PLO leadership will be able to use this uprising for achieving independent homeland for the Palestinian people.

He said the only convening of the international conference on the Middle East would not be a solution. "We have to decide on the nature, objective and participation at the conclave that must have the solution of the Palestinian problem as the central issue.

Ibrahimi said five members of the Security Council, the PLO and Egypt must be invited to the conference whose objective should be establishment of a homeland for the Palestinians.

On his country's stand on Chad, the Algerian minister said the solution lay in the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the Chad. Efforts must be made to achieve reconciliation. Any solution must be under the aegis of the Organisation of the African Unity (OAU). A dialogue has been going on between Chad and Libya, he said adding "we do not want Chad ground to be used to destabilise Libya.

He said that his visit to India proved very fruitful as it provided him opportunity to know the Indian viewpoints on many vital international problems. He said "we share views on many issues".

He said India which has made good progress in science, technology and other fields, can help Algeria in setting up projects in agriculture, communication and transport sector. It was decided that the Indo-Algerian joint commission meeting will be held in March to take steps for expansion of trade.

PRC Ambassador Urges Closer Bilateral Ties

BK311016 Hong Kong AFP in English 1002 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 31 (AFP)—The Chinese envoy to India said Sunday that a longstanding border dispute should not be allowed to hurt the development of relations between Beijing and New Delhi.

Ambassador Tu Guowei told a seminar here that the lack of progress in settling the dispute, despite eight rounds of negotiations, was cause for dismay.

"But the boundary issue should not stand in the way of developing relations between the two countries," Mr Tu said and called for peace on the frontier pending a settlement.

Bilateral trade amounted to only about $100 million and no direct air link existed between the two capitals, he said.

"These realities do not conform to our status as the two largest developing countries in the world," Mr Tu added.

India and China fought a brief border war in 1962. Both countries claim large chunks of each other's territory.

Agreement Signed To Import USSR Crude Oil

BK291603 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] India is to buy 4 million tons of crude and 2.5 million tons of petroleum products from the Soviet Union during the current year. An agreement on this was signed in New Delhi today between the chairman of the Indian Oil Corporation, Mr S.L. Khosla, and the managing director of the Soviet foreign trade organization, Mr Vladimir A. Arutyunyan. The value of the imports is expected to be about 1,300 crore rupees and the entire

payment will be made in rupees. The main petroleum products to be imported under the agreement will be high-speed diesel and kerosene.

Paper Assails Army Chief's Comment on Sri Lanka
BK310938 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 18 Jan 88 p 6

[Editorial: "Misplaced"]

[Text] All will agree with the Chief of the Army Staff, Gen. K. Sunderji, when in his interview to SAINIK SAMACHAR he lauds the bravery of Indian jawans and officers who are at present in Sri Lanka. His concern that nothing should be said which might lower the morale of the force personnel is also understandable. But who has condemned the IPKF [Indian peacekeeping force] as such? The recent discussion in India on the situation in Sri Lanka relates primarily to the initial political decision to involve Indian troops in the manner envisaged in the Indo-Sri Lankan Accord. One point of criticism in retrospect, for instance, has been that the Government of India does not appear to have had a full grasp of the complexities of the ethnic issue and its effect on Sri Lanka's domestic politics before it agreed to commit Indian troops to the task of curbing violence in Jaffna. In this country's democratic set-up it is open to any political party to voice such criticism. Gen. Sunderji in effect deplores such legitimate, and entirely normal questioning of the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord when he expresses concern over the "questioning" of the IPKF role "for partisan purposes". By doing so, he has laid himself open to the charge that while claiming the cover that the Army must be kept beyond politics, he himself is intervening in what is essentially a legitimate political debate.

The issue here is not whether the criticism of the Indo-Sri Lankan Accord is valid or otherwise. The issue is whether the Chief of the Indian Army should be saying things which can be used by one side or the other to question the legitimacy—not the specific arguments and facts—of its adversaries. His plea for "a national consensus" on what the IPKF is doing would be unexceptional if all that he had in mind was that participants in the current debate should appreciate the constraints under which the IPKF men are discharging the duties entrusted to them. But surely there can be no "national consensus" if responsible opinion has doubts about entrusting the duty of solving someone else's problem to the Indian Army.

Sri Lanka, of course, is an extreme example. But the "national consensus" which has hitherto been the hallmark of public perception of the Indian Army is tending to give way. And for three good reasons. First, more and more have learnt that the senior personnel of the defence forces are not above politicking. Second, while the defence forces remain one of the few institutions in which there is still a sense of professional excellence and integrity, all is not well in regard to even these matters, and even in the defence forces. And third, as our rulers have been less and less able to handle crises by the normal laws of the country and by relying on the police and paramilitary forces, they have resorted increasingly to the Army for what are essentially divisive duties. When the situation is allowed to deteriorate to the extent to which the one in Punjab had gone by 1984, or as it is successively allowed to do in regard to the communal tensions in a city like Ahmadabad, and the Army has to be called in, the Army is no longer perceived as "a national army". It becomes "the army of Delhi", "your army" or "my army". The way to restore the "national consensus" in regard to the armed forces is for the Chief of the Army Staff to join others in reversing these features which are putting that consensus under a strain rather than saying things which even by stretching can be used as an argument to damn legitimate questioning.

Report on Center-State Relations Issued
BK301329 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] The report of the Sarkaria Commission on the Center-state relations says the provisions of the Constitution are basically sound and need no structural changes. However, it suggests certain changes in the functional or operations aspects of the Center-state arrangements. The commission set up in 1983 under the chairmanship of Mr Justice R.S. Sarkaria released its report in New Delhi today. The 4,900 page report covers the entire gamut of Center-state relations.

The report says under the Indian conditions a strong Center is necessary not only to protect and preserve the independence, integrity, and unity of the country but also to coordinate a uniform integrated policy on basic national issues. It notes that the distribution of powers between the Center and the state made by the Constitution reconciles the imperatives of a strong Center with a need for state autonomy. On executive powers the commission has recommended that the requirement of consultation with the chief minister on the appointment of governor should be listed in the Constitution itself. The commission has set out principles to be adopted in appointing chief ministers as well as in the dismissal of a ministry. However, it neither finds it feasible nor desirable to provide for a set of guidelines for the exercise of the governor's discretion. About president's rule the commission says this power is necessary but it should be used very sparingly. It noted that the bulk imposition of president's rule in 1977 and 1980 was clearly improper. On the use of the armed forces the report says while it is entirely for the union to decide suo moto, it is however desirable to consult the concerned state wherever feasible.

Iran

Envoy to Beijing Denies Missile Purchase
OW290153 Beijing in Mandarin to Taiwan 1500 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] At a 27 January Beijing press conference for Chinese and foreign journalists, Iranian Ambassador to

China Broujerdi denied Iran's purchase of Silkworm missiles from China. He said: We have had many such weapons because we are capable of making them.

On China-Iran relations, Ambassador Broujerdi pointed out: Relations between the two countries are growing daily. The Iranian vice speaker will lead a delegation to Beijing on an official visit in the near future.

Meese's 'Complicity' in Pipeline Issue Noted

LD011812 Tehran IRNA in English 1746 GMT 1 Feb 88

["New Israeli-Iraqi Scandal Could Rock Whole Reagan Administration"—IRNA headline]

[Text] London, Feb. 1, IRNA—The mushrooming scandal over American and Israeli complicity in an Iraqi pipeline project is enveloping more than President Reagan's oldest friend Edwin Meese and could yet prove more devastating than the ignominious Irangate affair.

Attorney General Meese is facing increasing embarrassment over the latest revelations to rock the White House and according to reports from Washington, could be forced out of office because of his questionable role in the billion dollar pipeline.

Reagan's oldest friend is still facing independent investigations which is now focusing on a cited plan to bribe former Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres in return for his guarantee over the security of a proposed pipeline to the Jordan port of Aqaba.

The project had its origins in 1983, when Iraq was faced with the shutdown of its oil pipeline through Syria and attracted the interests of U.S. engineering giant Bechtel to undertake the work.

The striking similarities with the Irangate affair is that the proposal was handled outside normal government channels and once again drew in former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane and the late C.I.A. Director William Casey.

The fall out this time is that it is not only implicating Meese, but also the possible connections with the other president's men, Secretary of State George Shultz and recently dismissed Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, who had so far survived the Irangate scandal.

The politically sensitive spillover is that Shultz was president of Bechtel before joining the Reagan Administration and Weinberger had been vice-president.

Majlis Speaker Interviewed on War, Soviet Ties

OW011431 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1200 GMT 1 Feb 88

[From the "News Center 9" program]

[Text] It is almost 9 years now since the Islamic revolution started in Iran in 1979. Despite the UN resolution on a cease-fire, there does not seem to be good prospects for ending the Iran-Iraq war that was started right after the revolution. Under such circumstances, there have been continuous rumors that Iran will launch a major offensive operation soon.

Concerning the interpretation of Islamic law, Khomeyni, the supreme leader, recently stated that the government has the right to supersede Islamic law. As his remarks can be taken as an attempt to revise a realistic line, there seems to be a sign of change in the revolutionary regime. Nagasaki, our correspondent in Tehran, interviewed National Assembly Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who is believed to be the second top leader, on 31 January on such issues as the future of the prolonged Iran-Iraq war and Iran's relations with the Soviet Union, because it has been reported that Iran has been making overtures to the Soviet Union recently.

[Begin videorecording of Nagaskai in English and Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Persian with Japanese subtitles] [Nagasaki] Can we expect or is there any possibility of a political solution to end the Iran-Iraq war in the near future?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Invaders should be punished and justice should be defended. If the United Nations Security Council intends to defend justice, the road leading to peace will be opened. In this connection, Iraq must be punished as the invader. If Japan intends to strive for peace, it should start by admitting the fact that the war was started by Iraq.

[Nagasaki] What would you do if the United Nations makes a new resolution which condemns Iran and includes an arms embargo against Iran?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] There would be no effect at all. Our distrust in the United Nations will probably be further intensified.

[Nagasaki] Let me ask about the relationship between the USSR and Iran. You have accepted an invitation from the USSR. When are you going to visit the Soviet Union? Do you plan to discuss a defense treaty with the USSR during the coming visit?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I have not decided on the timing of a visit to the USSR. If the Soviet Union decides to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan, there would be no issues pending between our two countries, thus creating various possibilities. However, we have not had any talks on a mutual defense treaty. If the antigovernment forces

in Afghanistan are not invited to the talks in Geneva, we do not plan to attend the negotiations either. Iran does not recognize the current regime in Afghanistan. If the Soviet Union really wants to withdraw its troops, Iran will be ready to help make the withdrawal be completed smoothly. For instance, if the United States plans to impose its influence after the Soviet troops' withdrawal, Iran will prevent it by offering its assistance to Afghanistan.

[Nagasaki] At the beginning of January this year, Imam Khomeyni criticized President Khamene'i in his letter. Is there any disagreement, disharmony, or power struggle inside the Islamic government?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Khomeyni's criticism certainly does not indicate a power struggle. It is simply a matter concerning the argument over the interpretation of Islamic law, and the matter has already been settled. Khomeyni has a favorable feeling toward President Khamene'i and he regards the president as a capable leader. Quite often we have arguments over Islamic doctrines. In our country, the law should follow Islamic doctrines. However, if necessary, priority will be given to government decisions over doctrines. The current argument indicates that the government should enjoy such rights. Khomeyni has stated that the government should have such rights and the government can change Islamic doctrines on some occasions. [end recording]

Majlis Speaker Lauds Khomeyni's 1979 Return

LD011744 Tehran IRNA in English 1724 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA—The day Imam Khomeyni returned home was an epoch-making event in world history, said speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the Majlis session here Monday.

"I do not think," he said, "A similar event has happened anywhere in the World." When a leader who is hated by the ruling regime leaves a foreign country for home it speaks of incredible courage and faith, he said.

What the Imam did requires ardent faith and the heights of bravery, Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said adding that if one was to entertain even an atom of doubt regarding his people's faith, he would never run such a risk.

The Majlis speaker said the Iranian nation should be lauded because anything might have happened at the airport, Azadi Square the streets along which the Imam rode past. [sentence as received]

In fact, he added, the day Imam arrived (February 1, 1979) was the day the deposed Shah's regime was vanquished, although ten days later that year there was an armed clash which ended Pahlavi rule once and for all. "But," he added, "when a regime is helpless to prevent its avowed opponent from setting foot in the country that regime is already a defeated one, more so considering the fact that the leader has decided to form a government on arrival."

The previous regime's supporters resisted for a few more days in order to complete their criminal records, he said.

It is interesting to note that the people who have been united at the very beginning of the revolution are still present today on the scene after nine years of resistance and sacrifices, even more decisive than the past, he concluded.

Khamene'i Issues '10 Days of Dawn' Message

LD312046 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] [Announcer] Dear listeners, greetings. As announced in the news headlines, on the eve of the start of the 10th year after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, we now have President Khamene'i on the telephone. Mr Khamene'i, greetings to you.

[Khamene'i] Greetings to you.

[Announcer] Are you well?

[Khamene'i] Thanks be to God.

[Announcer] We are on the eve of the start of the 10th year after the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the start of the blessed 10 Days of Dawn. We would be very happy if we could start the glorious 10 Days of Dawn with your message for our listeners.

[Khamene'i] Thank you very much. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I wish to express my sincere congratulations to every single man, woman, and members of society from all strata and in all parts of the country on the occasion of the blessed anniversary of the 10 Days of Dawn, which marked the start of a new life for Islam and the unfurling of the banner of man's liberation and the instillation of a new hope in the hearts of the Muslims. Certainly, it is no exaggeration to claim that the 10 Days of Dawn were the true dawn of a new life for our nation. Therefore, this is a great feast—rather the greatest feast for our nation. Dawn means the start of the day and the shining of the sun; and the dawn of the revolution was the start of the effulgence of the sun of independence and freedom. It was the dawn of the Islamic Republic after a very long and dark, difficult night our nation experienced in the course of its centuries old history.

Our great revolution, after nine complete years from its inception, is still the greatest issue of our contemporary history. The political analysts of the world still continue to regard this event as the greatest event of recent years. Moreover, it also corresponds with the truth. Undoubtedly, with the success of this revolution, millions of

Muslims throughout the world found new hope and, undoubtedly, big powers whose only aim was the bondage of other human beings lost hope.

The period which our nation experienced, and still experiences—a hard and difficult life as the result of the domination of big powers in those years, in previous years and even now—was the black period of arrogance and colonialism and despotism. Moreover, this period of reactionary monarchical regime in our country constitutes one of the most difficult periods in the life of any nation. During that period the people were divorced from their human values, they became alienated from Islam, and with the start of this nation's struggle to return to Islam in the 15 years leading to the victory of the revolution, the sincere strugglers on this path were faced with all kinds of hardships and trials.

God Almighty showed His bounty to this nation and the promise of victory, as repeatedly mentioned in the Koran, was fulfilled. As a result of the steadfastness and fortitude of this nation, as a result of the struggles of this nation and the decisive and peerless and exceptional leadership of our beloved and illustrious imam and the self-sacrifice of the nation, the revolution became victorious. On a day like tomorrow, when our dear imam—this soul which had been separated from the body of the nation and this nation's beating heart—returned to the midst of this nation, a new life was breathed into the body of this country and this nation.

I believe that the excitement, the feeling, and the glory of the moment of the arrival of the imam and those glorious hours and those epic days will never be erased from the memory of this nation or even from the memory of the history of the world. Each of these 10 days will be recorded in our history, each of them marked by an event, a tale, and a lasting and enduring impression upon our history. The date for the rebirth of this nation became 11 February 1979. We hope we can value these precious and glorious events in our history, that we can appreciate the value of all that pure blood, all that great self-sacrifice, all that bravery and heroism, and all those blessings and bounties which God showered upon us and that we can continue along this bright path.

While reiterating my sincere congratulations to the dear Iranian nation and to our dear and illustrious leader and our esteemed father, the master and the guide of this nation, I wish to repeat to the members of this great family, the Iranian nation, that our struggles are still continuing. The struggles did not come to an end on 11 February. On the contrary, a very important phase—and the most difficult of all—only started and still continues. However, the end of this great struggle will also be victory.

I hope that all the Iranian people will witness victory in the fields of the imposed war, in the battlefield of all great world powers against the Iranian nation, and in the field of struggle against all difficulties. God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Announcer] Mr Khamene'i, thank you very much for the message which you have sent to our compatriots.

[Khamene'i] I am also thankful to you and to the brothers in the Voice and Vision.

Prosecutor General Comments on Drug Smuggling

NC020939 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Prosecutor General Musavi-Kho'iniha attended a ceremony at Torbat-e Jam [word indistinct] yesterday afternoon on the first day of the 10 Days of Dawn ceremonies in the presence of Sunni and Shi'ite clergymen, officials, and a large number of Torbat-e Jam residents. During this ceremony, Mr Musavi-Kho'iniha spoke about the problems of the Islamic Revolution and lauded our people's struggles during the revolution.

Replying to slogans and requests by the region's residents calling for a decisive struggle against drugs, he said: The plot of drug smuggling and drug trafficking is a serious threat to our Islamic country, and we are curently facing this dangerous plot on our eastern borders. He added: A holy jihad is needed to confront this plot, and you, the residents of border areas, form the (?frontline). All steps to thwart this plot need your cooperation and help, because it is you the people who have clearly seen this plot and feel its danger. We hope that in the same way that we were able to shame the Ba'thist enemy on the southern and western borders, with the help of the people and of our brave youths, we will also thwart the plot by world arrogance on our eastern borders.

Islamic Jihad Calls For Strike in 'Palestine'

LD291744 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] London, Jan. 29, IRNA—A renewed general strike starting from Saturday has been called by the Islamic Jihad movement of Palestine following the success of its call earlier this month.

Palestinian sources in Al-Quds (Jerusalem) said Friday that leaflets from Islamic Jihad were being distributed during Friday prayers throughout the occupied territories calling for a unified action for a general strike against the Zionist occupation.

The previous call from Islamic Jihad for a general strike was on January 9 and had a tremendous response from the Palestinians, whose labour is so vital for the Israeli economy.

Commonly some 120,000 Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank travel across the "1967 green line" to work in Israel and within days of the last call, Zionist contractors were said to be desperate for labour with their businesses devastated.

The Zionist regime has been trying to sow seeds of disagreement among the Palestinian Muslims in its general strategy of divide and rule, and in its released statement Islamic Jihad went on to condemn the visit of Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah to the United States.

Islamic Jihad said that the Palestinians must "close the door on the U.S. and put Palestinian rights first."

Jerusalem editor Sinyurah and Gaza lawyer Rahmah were supposed to have been banned by the Zionist regime from leaving the country but were specially allowed to travel to Washington last Monday for a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Schultz.

Khamene'i Opens Islamic Thought Conference

LD011205 Tehran IRNA in English 1152 GMT 1 Feb 88

["Khamene'i Inaugurates Conference With Tirade on Western Brands of Human Rights"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i here Monday inaugurated the Sixth International Conference on Islamic Thought at Tehran's Esteqlal Hotel attended by a large number of Iranian and foreign Islamic scholars.

In a speech to the conference the main theme of which is human rights in Islam, the president welcomed the guests and said that since 18th century human rights has been raised as a controversial issue in Europe and Western world. The issue remains as a major topic in conferences and speeches and books.

Further in his speech he said "We do not reject all of what the West has said about human rights nor do we accept them all," said the president.

Contrary to all these efforts, he added, the human rights issue remains as one of the unsolved problems. The world continues to witness discrimination, oppression, hunger and violation of rights of people, he said.

In another part of his speech the president referred to domination of Western culture and said that a major fact overlooked in human rights issue in its Western style is ignoring the basic rights of the human beings: the right to be free from subjugation to undivine systems.

He said in all these efforts the main issue, that is monotheism which implies sovereignty of God on all aspects of the life of human beings, is being overlooked. He continued once the sovereignty of God is absent, that of human beings prevails, and when human beings are not followers of God, they become subjects of the will of other people.

Most of those who tackle the human rights issue, even those who are sincere in this task, deal with trivialities and overlook the real rights of the humans. That is why, he told the conference, there are doubts about their motives or about the results of their efforts.

Elsewhere in his address the president referred to efforts of western countries in portraying themselves as upholders of the human rights. He then cited the example of the West hoisting the flag of freedom for the blacks, and said it is no secret that the West's outcry for democracy has been a cover for the predatory interests of the western countries in other parts of the world.

On the same token until recently the U.S. has been holding the banner of human rights and even now those whose blood-stained fingers can be seen in different countries avow similar commitments, said the president.

At present the most reactionary people are supported by the so-called defenders of human rights and even the Zionist regime is supported by the U.S. The U.S. is not even willing to accept an arms embargo on the racist regime of South Africa.

Directing his observations at human rights organisations the President said that they have disappointed the masses. Had they been sincere in their task the Palestinian issue would not have been ignored, he added.

The President said that obedience to God is the only solution, adding that monotheism was the key to success of the Iranian nation in their struggle against big powers. By reliance on God, he pointed out, the Iranian people attained their goals.

In his concluding remarks the president expressed confidence that Islamic and non-Islamic societies will attain freedom when they turn to monotheism.

Fadlallah Arrives for Meeting

LD301847 Tehran IRNA in English 1632 GMT 30 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Mashhad, Khorasan Province, Jan 30, IRNA—Prominent Lebanese Al-'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and a group of ulema from other countries arrived here Friday night to perform pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (A.S.), the eighth imam of Prophet Mohammad's (SAW) household.

The visitors, are in Iran to participate in a conference on Islamic thought to be held in Tehran from February 2 to 5, marking the 9th anniversary of the Islamic Republic. [passage omitted]

Montazeri Meets With Amnesty Delegation

LD291947 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] The amnesty delegation appointed by his eminence the imam, accompanied by the head of prisons, met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri this morning. They discussed with him steps already taken and projects relating to the pardoning of offenders. In the meeting, the deputy leader noted the importance and sensitivity of the work of the amnesty delegation appointed by the imam and said: If the relevant officials and prosecutors are certain a person is repentent and penitent, this person must not stay in prison, even when he is serving a long prison sentence.

Referring to the duties of the relevant officials with regard to the integration of people freed from prisons, he noted: It is important that we make arrangements so that offenders who have been freed are provided with a suitable home and can take up a suitable occupation of their choice. They must not sense that they are jobless or a superfluous member of society so that the idea of repeating past actions and offenses does not reoccur. They must not be forced by poverty or need to commit crimes. This is a duty of society and of the honorable officials, who must think of fundamental solutions for the people who are freed.

The details of the remarks by Grand Ayatollah Montazeri will be brought to your attention in the news reports section. In addition, during the past 2 days, the interior minister and his parliamentary deputy, met the deputy leader. The national chief of police accompanied by officials and students of the police officers university also met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri. During these meetings, he referred to the importance of training faithful and capable officiers for the future of country and the revolution and pointed out certain things to the students of the officers university and its officials.

Musavi, Mohtashemi Confer With Montazeri

LD011847 Tehran IRNA in English 1806 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Qom, Feb. 1, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi who is here to participate in the 10-Day Dawn ceremonies conferred with Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, here Monday.

The premier briefed the future leader of the Islamic Revolution on the current situation of the country at the meeting which was also attended by Minister of Interior Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi.

Velayati's Remarks in Frankfurt Stopover Noted

NC280633 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] On his way back from Warsaw after an official visit to Poland, our foreign minister, Mr Velayati, made a short stopover at Frankfurt Airport where he met with his FRG counterpart Hans-Dietrich Genscher. They discussed Iran's position on the Persian Gulf and on the latest efforts of the Security Council and the United Nations.

At the end of this meeting, our foreign minister stated in an interview: We explained to Mr Genscher that if the UN Security Council seeks a just and respectable solution and confirms the UN secretary general's efforts to achieve a just political solution, then this will be accepted by us. Otherwise, any effort in the Security Council, like those it has made so far under pressure from the superpowers, the United States in particular, will be rejected by us and not acceptable in any way.

Mr Velayati added: We hope that the Security Council members will not be influenced by pressures imposed by some of its other members, particularly the United States, because in this case they will be destroying the effectiveness of the United Nations in playing a correct and just role in the world.

Our foreign minister continued: We informed the FRG foreign minister of our explicit opposition to intervention of foreign powers in this sensitive area, and thanked the FRG for its decision not to join other U.S. allies who have interfered in the Persian Gulf. We pointed out that the stand adopted by the FRG was a logical one, because those who did not follow the FRG's lead now have had to revoke their former decision and shamefully withdraw from the Persian Gulf.

At the end of this interview Mr Velayati said: In view of the fact that the FRG is currently president of the EC and the EEC, both Iran and the FRG expressed interest at this meeting in the future expansion of relations between Iran and the EEC and noted the fact that the FRG, as a friendly country, plays a constructive role in this connection.

Foreign Minister's News Conference in Rome

AU291058 Rome ANSA in English 1008 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, January 29—"We feel that the U.N. secretary general's operative plan is acceptable and positive and we are ready to talk to (Javier) Perez de Cuellar about every issue", Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told a press conference here Thursday night during a brief stopover on his way back to Tehran from Geneva.

Velayati said that Perez de Cuellar's initiative could lead to "satisfactory results" but noted that Tehran's position had not changed with regard to the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

The first step must be to single out Iraq as the aggressor nation, he said.

He also ruled out any direct negotiations between Tehran and Baghdad.

He said that Tehran stood ready to welcome an envoy from the Cooperation Council in the Gulf to try to mediate an end to the Iran-Iraq war.

As to the presence of foreign ships in the Persian Gulf, Velayati claimed that this had created more problems than there were originally, and added that the security of those waters was the exclusive task of the Gulf states.

After the press conference, Velayati had a talk with Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti on Italy's actions within the U.N. Security Council and on Iranian-Italian relations.

The last encounter between Velayati and Andreotti took place around a month ago.

Majlis Speaker, Greek Envoy Discuss Relations
LD301912 Tehran IRNA in English 1737 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA—Greek Ambassador to the Islamic Republic Dhimitrios Erjiriedis [name as received] called on Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Saturday to discuss mutual ties and his country's stands on Persian Gulf developments.

The Greek ambassador, referring to the historical ties between Iran and Greece, expressed hope that Tehran-Athens relations would further expand in the future.

Erjiriedis said that the Greek Government condemns the presence of foreign fleets in the Persian Gulf and the Zionist regime's reaction to the Palestinian Muslim people (in occupied Palestine).

He said Athens has called on its representative to the European Economic Community (EEC) to set forth its stand on the Palestinian issue.

In response, the Majlis speaker underlined the necessity of joint efforts between the two countries to remove the existing obstacles in the way of bilateral relations.

The speaker, lauding the Greek Government for its stance on the the Persian Gulf issue and the Muslims' uprising in occupied Palestine, said the fact that a NATO member (Greece) has deplored NATO's move, is something which Iran's Muslim people will never forget.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets With Spanish Envoy
NC310740 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the Spanish envoy in Tehran met with Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Majlis, last evening and discussed Islam in Spain and the potential for expanding mutual activities and relations. With regard to the imposed war of Iraq against Iran, he said: Spain is neutral in the Iran-Iraq war and wants to assist in ending the war in a just manner. He added: Despite the fact that Spain is in the ranks of the Western countries, it has declared its opposition to the U.S. and NATO presence in the Persian Gulf and to the repressive Israeli policy against the Palestinians.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani then expressed his gratitude for the Spanish Government's stance on the U.S. deployment of forces in the Persian Gulf and Israel's attacks on the oppressed Palestinian people and said: Spain's resistance to U.S. pressure is laudable. Those who came to the Persian Gulf after the United States should now depart in disgrace; they have no answers for their people. Regarding the Spanish envoy's request for assisting in terminating the war, the Islamic Majlis speaker said: If the influential countries in the UN would declare the fact that Iraq is the initiator of the war, the preliminaries for ending the war will have been achieved.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council referred to the British Parliament and Foreign Ministry's identification of the Iraqi regime as the aggressor in the imposed war and said: If the same fact were announced by the UN Security Council as well, we would not have any problem, and you would be able—in your capacity as one of the EEC members—to ask the other members of the organization to proclaim this fact.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani also met with the Netherlands envoy to the Islamic Republic of Iran and assessed the basis for broadening bilateral relations. Regarding the imposed war and the resolution of UN Security Council, he said: First of all, the aggressor must be announced. If the Islamic Republic of Iran's conditions are not met, the only solution will be the continuation of the war.

Envoys to Paris, Hague Brief Prime Minister
LD310705 Tehran IRNA in English 0658 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 31, IRNA—Iranian ambassador to the Hague, Mohammad Taqi Mo'ayyed and former Iranian charge d'affaires to Paris, Gholam Reza Haddadi, in separate meetings with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Saturday briefed him on the diplomatic activities of their embassies in the two capitals.

Premier Musavi gave necessary instructions to Mo'ayyed for expansion of Netherlands-Iran political and economic ties.

Musavi Visits Foreign Ministry Document Exhibit
LD011140 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] We continue our news reports with the prime minister's inspection of the Foreign Ministry document and book exhibition on Iran's foreign relations.

During the visit, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati, the prime minister inspected documents of agreements between the Iranian Government and foreign governments, hand-written documents, and books on Iran's foreign relations over various periods. In an interview with reporters, he called the exhibition important, saying: Such exhibitions can inform the people of their historical past and of the kings' betrayals of the country.

He added: The Islamic Revolution created the opportunity to judge this country's relations with foreign powers. This exhibition clearly shows samples of numerous past documents. Moreover, it details the unsound and weak relations between the Qajar and Pahlavi dynasties and foreign powers. This information must be transmitted to the younger generation. We should act more quickly to show these documents to the public. This will raise political awareness and make us invincible in the face of invasions and conspiracies.

He added: In reading these documents, we see that our slogan "Neither East nor West" has a sound basis. We must increase our support for this slogan which has given us human dignity.

Finally, the prime minister said: We have asked the Foreign Ministry to hold this exhibition in the city center and to make it a permanent exhibit. The government will help establish it.

Council of Guardians Discusses Bills 31 Jan
LD311302 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] At today's session of the Council of Guardians the bill for Islamic Republic of Iran's membership in the Islamic Development Bank, passed on 15 February by the Majlis, and the bill on claims in connection with war booty were discussed. The latter was amended by the Majlis on recommendations made by the Council of Guardians and was ratified. Following discussions and in view of the changes made to the bill, the Council considered that it does not conflict with Shari'a principles and the Constitution.

Afghan Rebels Honored at Meeting
LD300653 Tehran IRNA in English 0632 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA—Thousands of theologians, students of theological schools, Afghan mujahidin and refugees commemorated the martyrdom of members of Afghanistan Islamic movement at a mosque here Friday.

After recitation of a few verses from the holy Koran and announcing the names of those Afghans martyred in battles with the Soviet-backed government forces member of Afghanistan Nasr organisation Hojjat ol-Eslam Azizollah Shafaq [name as received] who has recently returned from Afghanistan delivered a speech on the situation in Afghanistan.

Pointing to the conspiracies of East and West to force Afghan resistance movement to negotiation with the Kabul government Hojjat ol-Eslam Shafaq said that the strategems of the world arrogance to change the course of the struggles of the Afghan mujahidin have failed.

He stressed that such devices as sowing the seeds of discord among Afghan strugglers and dividing them or making them negotiate for peace as well as forming other quasi-coalitions in Afghanistan have not worked.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Shafaq noted that the Soviet Union, the U.S. and U.N. should be aware that "the heroic people of Afghanistan will never compromise and are determined to establish an Islamic republic in Afghanistan".

The resistant Muslim nation of Afghanistan, he said, will never allow any international forum to decide on behalf of the Afghan people. He added the Afghan people are fighting for independence, and freedom and for instituting an Islamic republic, and said they will go on with their jihad (holy war) until an Islamic statehood independent from either of the ruling powers is established in their country.

Commentary Assesses Future of Afghanistan
LD011443 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1114 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Station commentary: "The Future Government of Afghanistan Must Rely on the Will of the Muslim Nation of That Country"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] A problem facing UN negotiator Cordovez is that of disagreement on the part of the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries on setting up an interim government of reconciliation with elements of the Kabul regime. Another problem is that of arranging for the scheduled departure of the Soviet forces from Afghan soil. According to political observers, lack of trust concerning Cordovez' success, borne out of the absence of meetings with the leaders of the Afghan strugglers, still endure despite his extending his tour of the region and assessing his talks with Pakistani officials and the Kabul regime as positive.

Meanwhile, the Muslim revolutionaries and Afghan mujahidin have vehemently condemned and rejected the Geneva talks because of the absence of the real representatives of the Afghan people, on one hand, and the illegitimacy of the Kabul regime, on the other. They have affirmed that participation in the talks, nine rounds of which have ended inconclusively, is tantamount to acknowledging the legitimacy of the nagotiations and of the occupation of the Islamic land of Afghanistan by Soviet forces.

Amid all this, and simultaneous with the visits of the UN negotiator to the region, who came to coordinate efforts on the eve of 10th round of the Geneva talks, the Afghan mujahidin leaders announced their plans for the establishment of an administration and for taking power into their own hands following the departure of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. According to news agency reports, a

statement in this connection was issued in Pakistan. It said: The leadership of the administration is the Afghan mujahidin, but refugees and Muslims in Afghanistan also may take part. The statement says further: The mujahidin will refrain from sharing power with the Communists. They also have warned that any efforts by foreigners to impose any government will not end the Afghan crisis. [passage omitted]

The Islamic Republic of Iran, since the onset of the military intervention by the USSR in Afghanistan, has always asked for the immediate and unconditional departure of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan. Iran has always declared that the presence of the Soviet forces not only disregards the just rights of a Muslim nation and has caused the death, injury, and uprooting of a considerable number of the population, but has become a pretext for hegemonistic U.S. policies in the region.

In the same connection, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in a meeting with the USSR ambassador to Tehran concerning the Afghan issue and the departure of the USSR Armed Forces personnel from that country, stated: At the beginning, and in a friendly manner, we told you that it would not be in your interests to have a military presence in Afghanistan. We do not have any plans for Afghanistan, other than being neighborly toward that country. If you are determined to leave Afghanistan, we are prepared to help you leave. Furthermore, we are prepared to help so that the United States does not dominate Afghanistan.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has always stated that the Afghanistan issue can be resolved within the framework of the regional countries' issues, and particularly the neighboring countries of Afghanistan. Thus the presence of and intervention by the United States, in any form, to resolve the Afghanistan issue is not acceptable to Iran. At any rate, the Islamic Republic of Iran, as it has affirmed many times in the past, believes that the Muslim people of Afghanistan must decide their future. Iran wants Afghanistan to become an independent, nonaligned Islamic country with friendly relations with its neighbors, relying on the will of the Muslim nation of that country.

Arms Exhibition Shows Defense Self-Sufficiency

LD011919 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] This morning, on the first day of the auspicious 10 Days of Dawn, an exhibition on the defense industries' self-sufficiency was opened in the presence of Major General Zahirnezhad, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council; Brigadier General Jalali, the defense minister; and a group of clergymen and responsible officials of the defense industries.

In this exhibition, which is located in the Mosalla [Friday prayers venue] of Bandar-e 'Abbas, various examples of arms and equipment are on display, including ammunition for small- and large-caliber weapons, mortars and grenades, heavy and light weapons, missile-firing platforms, various missiles made by the defense industries, telecommunications and electronic equipment, small and large batteries for commercial and military use, fixed batteries, various types of explosives and explosive charges for firing weapons, and many prototypes of machines and tools for the repair and maintenance of various fighter planes and helicopters.

The equipment displayed in this exhibition demonstrates the remarkable achievements of the country's defense industries, which have saved the country about 50 percent in foreign currency expenditures.

Amphibious Personnel Carrier Manufactured

NC012224 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Report by unidentified correspondent of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran from Esfahan—recorded]

[Text] An amphibious armored personnel carrier [APC] [Khodrow-ye natarbar-e zerehi-ye shenavar] has been designed and manufactured in Iran by the Esfahan Construction Jihad's war engineering research unit. On the eve of the 9th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, and to mark the auspicious 10 Days of Dawn, the Esfahan Construction Jihad's war engineering research unit yesterday morning displayed its projects which are ready to go into operation in the field of mechanized carriers and armored carriers.

It announced that until now, approximately 15 important research projects have been completed, some of which have already reached the production lines. This unit's latest project is the designing and manufacturing of amphibious APC's and command carriers of different kinds. All the stages of design and manufacture were completed by this unit's dedicated experts and prevented the exodus of millions of dollars of foreign exchange for procuring equipment, components, and military carriers.

Iraqi Deserters Foil Army Arrest Attempt

LD311712 Tehran IRNA in English 1649 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, Jan. 31, IRNA—Desperate efforts of the Iraqi Ba'thist forces to arrest army deserts in Al-'Amarah region, Maysan Province, eastern Iraq, over the past few days came to a nought thanks to the heroic resistance of tribesmen inhabiting the region.

Iraqi troops backed by helicopter gunships and warplanes tried to arrest deserters in Al-'Amarah but were forced to retreat leaving behind dozens of killed and wounded soldiers, when faced by the stiff resistance of the local tribesmen who oppose the Baghdad regime.

In another development, several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded in sporadic clashes with Iraqi mujahidin in Hur al-Mansk [placename as received] region between Al-Kut and Al-'Amarah early this week.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Kurds Kill 1,000 Iraqis

LD011811 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] The General Staff of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in a communique has announced: During the last few days the rangers of the 75th Zafar Brigade of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, with the collaboration of the forces of the Democratic Party of Iraqi Kurdistan, in two operations succeeded in destroying a number of high-voltage electricity pylons on the Dukan-Al-Sulaymaniyah road, creating blackouts in parts of Kirkuk and Al-Sulaymaniyah Provinces.

Also, the self-sacrificing fighters of the Sayyid al-Shohada forces, in attacking one military column on the Ba'qubah to (Abu-Sayyida) road, succeeded in killing or wounding dozens of the forces of the Zionist Iraqi regime. Also, the jamming station and the radar post for aerial defense, as well as hundreds of premises and containers [as heard] of the Iraqi tourist organization in Sari-Rash in Irbil Province in Iraq were set on fire in the course of the destructive operations of the forces of the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan. More than 1,000 of the personnel of the Ba'thist forces and the mercenaries of the antipeople regime of Saddam were killed or wounded. More than 50 of the enemy forces were captured, and 5 tanks, 25 military vehicles of different types, 1 antiaircraft gun, 3 Racal wireless radios, and 1,270 light weapons were captured by the Iraqi Kurdish fighters.

Communique No 3,098

LD311533 Tehran IRNA in English 1523 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 31, IRNA—Iran'S naval forces identified 15 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Saturday but observed no suspicious cases, said a military communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here Sunday.

The 3098th Joint Staff Communique reported that the Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday to provide air cover for the Navy and reconnoiter positions of foreign vessels in the waterway in accordance with international regulations.

In the western fronts Saturday a number of Iraqi forces were killed or wounded and several enemy tanks and vehicles sustained heavy losses by Iranian artillery fire. Attempts of an Iraqi patrol convoy to infiltrate Iranian positions in Chazabeh, southern sector, were also foiled. Iranian Gendarmerie forces traded artillery fire with Iraqi troops in parts of the southern and western sectors yesterday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and setting ablaze five bunkers of theirs.

Heavy artillery fire of Iran's Muslim combatants prevented Iraqi engineering units from setting up embankments or observation posts in Naft-e Shah, Mehran and Nahr 'Anbar, western sector, and checked movement of enemy motorized columns in Kani-Sheykh, Helaleh, Yebis and Jofeyr in the same fronts yesterday, concluded the communique.

Communique No 3,099

LD011642 Tehran IRNA in English 1619 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA—Iranian naval gunboats intercepted and searched an oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz Sunday but allowed it to continue voyage after making certain it was not carrying cargo for Iraq. The Navy also identified and shelled two Iraqi vessels in the Khawr 'Abdallah waterway that separates Kuwait from the battle zone, forcing them to flee, said a military communique here Monday.

The 3099th Joint Staff Communique added the Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday to reconnoiter positions of foreign warships and provide air cover for the Navy.

On Sunday, Iran's Muslim combatants continued shelling Iraqi positions, troop concentration sites, supply routes and vehicle columns throughout the battlefields Sunday, inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on the enemy.

On the western fronts, a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and an enemy motor pool, a key connecting bridge and several vehicles were destroyed by Iranian artillery fire yesterday.

Several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 10 enemy emplacements of light and heavy weapons set ablaze in parts of the southern and western sectors in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces Sunday.

Iranian artillery fire checked movement of Iraqi motorized units and enemy engineering operations in Hoseyniyeh, north of Hur, west of Jofeyr and Talaiyah, southern sector yesterday.

Iraqi troops stationed in areas overlooking Marivan, Sumar, Eynkhosh and Nahr 'Anbar, sustained considerable casualties and losses Sunday when their positions were shelled by Iranian combatants, concluded the communique.

Pakistan

4 Killed, 16 Injured in Peshawar Bomb Blast

BK010820 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 800 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Four persons were killed and 16 injured, 4 of them seriously, when a bomb exploded in Sabzimandi in Peshawar this morning. The bomb was said to have been planted in a vegetable crate. The injured have been admitted to the hospital.

President, Junejo Condemn Blast

BK011556 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] The president and the prime minister have expressed deep sorrow over the bomb blast in Peshawar today. In his message, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq strongly condemned this act of sabotage and described it as an inhuman, brutal act by which innocent people lost their lives and many others were injured. The president expressed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the salvation of the departed souls and for the speedy recovery of the injured.

In his message, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo expressed deep grief over the loss of lives in the bomb blast. He expressed his sympathy with the bereaved families. He directed the officials concerned to look after the injured and to make efforts for their speedy recovery. He prayed for the salvation of the souls of the deceased.

NWFP Chief Minister Arbab Mohammad Jahangir expressed his heartfelt sympathy with the bereaved families and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

In a statement, Interior Minister Nasim Ahmad Ahir has said that the government is determined to protect the life and property of the people. He prayed for the salvation of the departed souls and for the speedy recovery of the injured.

3 Demonstrators Killed by Police Fire

BK011329 Hong Kong AFP in English 1325 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 1 (AFP)—Three people were killed and many injured as police opened fire on dozens of demonstrators who attacked the offices of a magistrate and police, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) reported Monday.

The demonstrators involved in Sunday's incident in Sangla Hill, 250 kilometers (155 miles) south of Islamabad, were protesting the alleged murder of a young man in police custody, APP said.

Three people were killed and several demonstrators and police were injured in the clash, as the protesters hurled stones at police who then opened fire, the report added.

Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Said Signed

BK311437 Karachi NAWA-I WAQT in Urdu 24 Jan 88 p 3

["Editorial Note": "Nuclear Test Ban Treaty"]

[Text] A telepress conference at the American Center in Karachi has revealed that Pakistan has signed a partial nuclear test ban treaty. The revelation came in the form of an appreciative comment from a U.S. expert to the Government of Pakistan for the latter's initiative in signing the partial nuclear test ban treaty. Pakistan had to face difficulties on an international level on a number of occasions due to the propaganda campaign waged by the Jewish and Hindu lobbies against Pakistan's nuclear research program. The same propaganda campaign and the machinations of these Jewish and Hindu lobbies were also behind constraints that the U.S. Congress had to face in connection with approving economic and military aid for Pakistan last year. Pakistan, however, has always affirmed its principled stand that it will not sign any treaty on nuclear safeguards so long as India will not sign it. The same stand was adopted by Pakistan during all stages of the approval of U.S. aid, and the Reagan administration announced that it accepted Islamabad's stand. Consequently, the U.S. ambassador to Pakistan said in an interview that President Reagan sees the nuclear issue as a regional problem in South Asia and believes that Pakistan, like India, is not in a position to resolve this problem unilaterally.

Against this backdrop, the report that Pakistan signed the partial nuclear test ban treaty comes as a revelation because it is inconsistent with Pakistan's declared stand. If such a treaty has been signed, the nation needs to be informed of the government's reasons, motives, and policies in this regard. The nation must know whether the signing of this treaty was a precondition for approval of U.S. aid to Pakistan. It would be appropriate for the government to explain this issue in the National Assembly so that the elected representatives of the people can discuss in detail the merits and faults of this treaty, and the nation can be aware of the conditions on which U.S. aid has been granted and the limitations and restrictions under which Pakistan's nuclear research programs and experiments must be undertaken.